

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless
Weekly Shelter Provider COVID-19 Zoom Call #42
Wednesday, January 13, 2021; 10:30am-11:30am

Participants/Programs Represented:

Oakland Catholic Worker, WDDC, Women's Daytime Drop-in Center/Bridget House, BFHP, City of Union City, Dorothy Day House Shelter, City of Oakland, Options Recovery Services, BACS, Roots Community Health Center, First Presbyterian Church of Hayward/South Hayward Parish, AHS, Shepherd's Gate, Fred Finch Turning Point Transitional Housing, SAVE, St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County, Building Futures, City of Emeryville, FESCO/La Familia, East Oakland Community Project, The Village of Love, Family Bridges, St. Mary's Center, Dream Center, Code for America, CHC, Abode Services, HCEB

1. **Introduction:** This is the 42nd weekly call hosted by the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless program. Calls will be **every Wednesday at 10:30am-11:30am on Zoom.**

- Thank you for all your hard work! This is a marathon not a sprint, so take care of you so that we can continue to support our shelter community and those who are unhoused.
- The purpose of this call is to bring together countywide shelter providers to share updates, knowledge, practices, build supportive community, and develop effective responses to protect our health and the health of the persons living in our shelter environments.
- If shelter staff have specific issues or challenges with individuals who may be symptomatic, infected or at-risk of COVID-19, email achch@acgov.org with details so we can follow up.
- To be added to the email list, contact Kathy Barron at kathryn.barron@acgov.org.

2. **Grounding Exercise:**

Breathing exercise- breathe in for 4 seconds, hold for 1 second, breathe out for 5 seconds. Repeat. Breathe in positive things you have been observing/experiencing. Breathe out negativity/stress.

3. **Situation Report:**

David Modersbach, Health Care for the Homeless

- Refer to [Alameda County COVID-19 Dashboards](#)
 - Countywide totals as of 01/13/2021: 62,046 confirmed cases, 763 deaths
 - **ACHCH:**
 - Outbreak response: 8+ active situations (shelter and encampment)
 - Testing in shelter and street setting: over 4,000 tests given
 - Positivity rate for homeless: 3.2% (not including Project Roomkey)
- Check Alameda County Public Health website for testing sites; <https://covid-19.acgov.org/testing.page>
- If you need COVID supplies, please contact your city EOC or supply chain **before** contacting ACHCH. If there are supplies they are unable to provide, please contact Kathy Barron at kathryn.barron@acgov.org to order and pick up supplies.
- Winter shelters: [HUD information sheet](#) re: winter shelters and COVID-19

- COVID-19 vaccination roll out: Outreach and health care providers are currently getting vaccinated. Shelter providers will be vaccinated in the near future. If you have questions, please email covidachch@acgov.org.

4. City and County Check-in:

Lucy Kasdin, Health Care for the Homeless

- Project Roomkey: New [webpage \(https://homelessness.acgov.org/roomkey.page?\)](https://homelessness.acgov.org/roomkey.page?) where you can check on status of Project Roomkey and FAQs.
- Operation Comfort (isolation quarantine) continues to be open and has been extended through June.
- To-date: 280 households have been exited from Project Roomkey into housing
- At the end of December Safer Ground sites were closed (29 hotel rooms)
- Four priorities being taken into account: (1) COVID-19 cases (2) Move-in rate of housing opportunities (3) available funding (4) vaccination schedule

Heather MacDonald Fine, AHS

- Currently 68 in-patients at AHS; staff positivity rate is approximately 4% (cumulative of about 7,000 employees)
- Vaccinations: happening for frontline workers; 3,500 people to date. Wave A, B, C; A-people working in higher risk areas, B-staff in clinics, C-administrative staff. Wave A to finish in next 4-6 weeks. Moving into giving second dose; side effects: tired, not feeling well, but nothing serious that last about 24 hours.
- Thank you to everyone for what you're doing in the field and helping others.

Kari Jennings-Parriott, Health Care for the Homeless

- Thank you Dr. Harrison Alter for helping us on this call and all the hard work you have put into Project Roomkey and shelter health.
- Staff positives and checklist to ensure the safety of staff and residents; wearing a mask, social distancing, hand washing, etc.
- Community transmission rate is 10%; Shelter staff have a huge responsibility to ensure everyone is kept safe.
- Being vaccinated does not mean all of the safety protocols go away; still need to wear a mask, wash hands, and social distance, etc.
- How are you continuing to develop relationships with residents during the pandemic? How is it being received out in the community?
 - People struggle with setting boundaries they are close to; teenagers have struggled with this deeply and it is a grieving process to build these boundaries.

Dr. Harrison Alter, Health Care for the Homeless

- (1) what we are asking the vaccine to do is prevent our hospitals from collapsing/getting swamped (2) what the vaccine won't do is save us the burden of practicing safety protocols (in the short term). We don't know if vaccine will prevent from infection/transmission; we still need to continue to follow safety protocols.
- Vaccines will shorten the length of the pandemic.

- People that are vaccinated still get tested? Don't get antibody test. Continue to get tested after vaccination.

5. **Highlights:**

- Project Roomkey: New [webpage](https://homelessness.acgov.org/roomkey.page?) (<https://homelessness.acgov.org/roomkey.page?>)
- Frontline Workers Counseling Project; www.fwcp.org

Thank you all! Remember all of the successes you and your staff are accomplishing. Be compassionate in your care for yourself and others. We appreciate all of you and your creativity to support the unhoused community. Please continue to remind residents to wear a mask, wash hands, and practice social distancing.