

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless
Weekly Homeless Provider COVID-19 Community Call
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
10:30am-11:00am

48 Participants & Following Programs Represented:

HEPPAC, FESCO/La Familia, City of Fremont, HAC, HCEB, ACBH, EOCP, Oakland Fire Department/MACRO, Eden I&R/211, City of Alameda, BART Police Crisis Intervention Team, First Pres Church Hayward, Operation Dignity, CAL-PEP, Family Bridges, Insight Housing, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans, Serenity House, Bay Area Legal Aid

Introduction: This is a monthly homeless provider community call hosted by the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless program. Calls will be **every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:30am-11:30am on Zoom**. The purpose of this call is to bring together countywide shelter and outreach 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 sheltered and unsheltered environments.

If you have specific questions 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.

1. Situation Report:

ACHCH & Alameda County COVID-19 Stats:

- [CDC COVID-19 Community Level](#): **LOW**
- **Testing:** Check [Alameda County Public Health website](#) for testing sites; reach out to achch@acgov.org for test kit supplies while they are still available.
- **Vaccinations:** call (510) 208-4VAX; No documentation or identification is needed; people can self-verify (self-attest) address and in identifying themselves.
- **Treatment:** <https://www.achch.org/covid-19-treatment.html>
- ACPHD vaccine webpage: <https://covid19.acgov.org/vaccines>
- Alameda County Public Health:
 - [Vaccine Guidance & Resources](#)
 - [Vaccine FAQs](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Q&A](#)
- Visit [East Bay Getting to Zero](#) for weekly updates/information on HIV and COVID

David Modersbach, ACHCH

- May 11, 2023 is end of the Federal COVID-19 State of Emergency
- Reviewed [2018-2021 Homeless Mortality Report](#)
- Specific discussion of homeless drug overdose mortality. Review attached OD chapter for details
 - Visit the ACHCH website to register for a **virtual** Opioid Overdose Responder and Naloxone training.
 - AHS Bridge Clinic: Bridge Program contact the Substance Use Navigators at SUN@alamedahealthsystem.org or (510) 545-2765.

- Summer Solstice Celebration of the Strength and Resilience of People Experiencing Homelessness
 - **Wednesday, June 21st from 12pm-1pm**
 - Hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Hayward in Castro Valley
 - We'll have lunch, raffle prizes, music, and awards
 - Nominations for Resilience and Determination (RAD) Heroes can be submitted here: <https://forms.office.com/g/5T3wTr4YFX> by **May 22nd**.
- ACHCH Monthly Training Series: Homeless Service Providers as Grief Survivors
 - Wednesday, May 24th from 9am-11am via Zoom
 - Email achch@acgov.org for more information (if you aren't already on the email distribution list)

2. Resources:

- Homeless services providers ventilation toolkit is located on our [ACHCH Environmental Health webpage](#).
- ACHCH BAAQMD portable HEPA air filter distribution: Please identify one lead (person) from each homeless housing/service facility and submit this form (<https://forms.office.com/g/pcVaL7HhAP>).
- SICK staff need to stay home! If staff are not feeling well, they need to call out sick or leave immediately.
- Recommendation to shelter and outreach staff regarding N95 masks: If your site is undergoing an outbreak or suspected outbreak ACHCH advises to double-mask with a cloth and surgical mask or wear N95/KN95 masks.
- ACHCH is providing COVID-19 test kits and KN95 masks. Please contact us at achch@acgov.org for more information.
- Check [Alameda County Public Health website](#) for testing sites, treatment information, etc.
- [MyTurn](#) for COVID-19 vaccination information and to register
- Vaccinations: call (510) 208-4VAX; No documentation or identification is needed; people can self-verify (self-attest) address and in identifying themselves. Visit our [website](#) for vaccine guidance and resources
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)
- Alameda County Public Health:
 - [Vaccine Guidance & Resources](#)
 - [Vaccine FAQs](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Q&A](#)
- Frontline Workers Counseling Project; fwcp.org
- Water distribution: [Outreach Providers](#), please contact David Modersbach (david.modersbach@acgov.org) if you'd like to pick up water to distribute.
- [COVID-19 Treatment website](#)
- Congregate living facilities such as homeless shelters, residential treatment facilities, transitional housing facilities, room and board, group homes, and residential congregate living for youth must report the following to Alameda County Public Health Department per local reporting thresholds:
 - ≥1 COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period in residents and/or staff
 - [How to Report](#): Email covidob@acgov.org and follow [the Step-by-Step Instructions for Controlling the Outbreak at the Facility](#). In the email, include the name and contact information of the reporter, facility name, number of employees or residents involved, and a brief description. **DO NOT** include the names, date of birth, or any other protected health information of any persons diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.
 - Then, complete the [Shared Portal for Outbreak Tracking \(SPOT\) Intake Form](#).
 - This info can also be found on our website: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/reporting-requirements#congregate>.

- Emphasizing the need for close symptom screening of staff and carrying out full symptoms/contacts checks daily. Please review the [ACHCH Shelter Health Guidance](#).
- *“For the safety of staff and shelter guests, we continue to recommend reduced occupancy and physical distancing. Distancing is a recommendation, but not a mandate and providers may, at their discretion, decide on measures appropriate to their specific sites.” ~Dr. Moss, ACPHD*
- What is a Positive Case?
A frequent source of confusion is how we know if someone has COVID-19, and when they are safe to return to the site or return to work. The guidance has been very confusing. We suggest people think of it in these simple terms:
 - A positive test OR symptoms should be treated as a positive COVID case.
 - A positive rapid test is almost certain to be correct. But a negative rapid test may not be. That's why we consider symptoms to be the same as a positive test.
 - The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, tiredness. Other signs are sore throat, diarrhea, breathing problems, eye problems, headache, loss of taste or smell, rash. If someone newly has any of these symptoms, consider them to have COVID-19. You do not need to administer a rapid test, and it may give you a false sense of safety to do so.
 - Well-fitting masks and vaccination are still the best protection we have against this virus. Masks must be worn at all times indoors by residents and staff unless sleeping or eating. During outbreaks and surges, we recommend N95 masks be worn by all residents and staff while indoors. Masks save lives. Reach out if we can help with access to good quality masks.
- Alameda County Steps to Controlling Outbreaks in Congregate Living Facilities: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/covid19-assets/docs/healthcare-guidance/Steps-to-Controlling-Outbreaks-in-Congregate-Living-Facilities-22.08.02.pdf>
- ACHCH is offers Opioid Overdose Responder and Naloxone virtual trainings. Register for a training [here](#).

Thank you all! Be compassionate in your care for yourself and others. We appreciate all of you and your creativity to support the unhoused community.