Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless
Weekly Homeless Provider Community Call
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
10:30am-11:30am

59 Participants & Following Programs Represented:
Abode Services, Operation Dignity, Family Bridges, FESCO/La Familia, Cherry Hill Detox, Homeless Action Center, WORLD, City of Livermore, Building Futures, CAL-PEP, City of Union City, City of Fremont, Tiburcio Vasquez

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.

1. Situation Report:
Alameda County COVID-19 Resources:
- 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.
- Prevention: ACHCH Ventilation Toolkit and Air Cleaners page, CDC ventilation advisory;
- 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
 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.

David Modersbach, ACHCH
- COVID-19 Booster: New booster to be approved mid-September/early October; ACHCH will have available October/November.
• **Planning for Fall Vaccines:** Community Resilience Teams and Mobile Vaccination Teams are working with ACHCH and ACPHD to provide COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccination events will likely offer both flu shots and new COVID bivalent boosters. Coordination between Community Resilience Teams (such as WORLD, CALPEP) with shelter/services providers and street health providers to hold vaccination events at sites in coordination with mobile vaccination provider teams.

• Please let us know if your shelter or homeless service site is interested in hosting a COVID-19 Booster/Flu Shot Vaccine event this fall! Vaccinations should begin in October, and ACHCH is organizing pop-up community vaccination events. Reach out to your ACHCH Regional Coordinator, or go to this form and submit your information if your site is interested.

• **Incentivizing vaccinations** (flu and COVID-19) for the homeless population: some debate around this idea to get people to receive vaccinations. Some moral/ethical questions, and discussion of these
  - Types of incentives organizations are giving out:
    - Target, Visa, gas gift cards
    - Uber Eats
    - Having vaccination events that provide food, supplies, and a raffle so it’s an incentive for people to attend whether they receive a vaccination or not. Can still receive information about the vaccines.

• **Ventilation/Isolation/COVID-19:** California Department of Public Health worked with ACHCH in the development of our homeless services providers Ventilation Toolkit earlier this year. CDPH has issued more in-depth guidance and recommendations on the development of onsite isolation rooms and facilities for homeless shelter and housing providers. Please review their Best Practices for Ventilation of Isolation Areas to Reduce COVID-19 Transmission Risk in ... Homeless Shelters.

• **Communicable Diseases and Infection Control Recommendations for Shelters:** ACHCH has been working with Alameda County Public Health Disease Control and Prevention Department to develop resources for prevention and response to communicable diseases and infections in shelter and homeless services centers. ACHCH will be working to develop a training and more materials for homeless services providers.

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.

• 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:
  o ≥1 COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period in residents and/or staff
  o 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.
  o Then, complete the Shared Portal for Outbreak Tracking (SPOT) Intake Form.
  o 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:
  o A positive test OR symptoms should be treated as a positive COVID case.
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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.


• 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.