

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless
Weekly Homeless Provider COVID-19 Community Call
Wednesday, September 22, 2021; 10:30am-11:30am

85 Participants & Following Programs Represented:

St. Mary's Center, Manna from Heaven, HEPPAC, Abode Services, Dorothy Day House, BACS, BMH HFSP, City of Union City, Ruby's Place, Tri-Valley Haven, AHS, Kaiser Fremont Hospital, City of Alameda, Roots Community Health Center, EOCP, City of Albany/CARES, FESCO/La Familia, AC SSA, OHCC HCSA, Curbside Care Clinic, First Pres Hayward/South Hayward Parish, Bay Area Legal Aid, Salvation Army, WORLD, City of Livermore, BACH, Swords to Plowshares, BOSS, CAL-PEP, Tiburcio Vasquez

1. **Introduction:** This is the weekly homeless provider community call hosted by the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless program. Calls will be **every Wednesday at 10:30am-11:30am on Zoom** (except for the last Wednesday of the month when we have our monthly trainings).

- 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 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 distribution list, please contact Kathy Barron at kathryn.barron@acgov.org.

2. **Situation Report:**

ALERT: Alameda County and ACHCH are witnessing a swift increase in new COVID-19 cases. Alameda County has seen a 10+ times higher increase in new cases since the June 15th reopening. ACHCH is currently responding to 13 separate shelter and street-based infections/outbreaks. COVID-19 infection, associated with the new, rapidly-spreading Delta Variant, is rapidly on the rise.

Clearly and indisputably, receiving a COVID-19 vaccine gives people and communities huge protection against infection, but most importantly against serious illness and death.

ACHCH is urging shelter providers to TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY:

- Increase vigilance around symptom checks
- Continued masking and social distancing
- **IMMEDIATELY** call Kari Jennings-Parriott at (510) 472-4255 if you have suspected cases or reports of cases
- Keep working to get residents vaccinated
- **Non-vaccinated staff must receive COVID testing on a weekly basis.**

Key messages:

- **Emphasizing the need for close screening of staff and carrying out full symptoms/contacts checks on a daily basis.** Please review the [ACHCH Shelter Health Guidance](#) (7/21/21) and expect updates shortly to our checklist for responding to COVID+ Cases in shelter settings, including a new form and expectations for staff who are reporting COVID-19 cases in congregate settings.

- **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 wear N95 masks or at least double-mask with a cloth and surgical mask. Contact Kari Jennings-Parriott to request N95 masks.
- **State Public Health Officer order of [July 26th](#) (congregate settings) & [August 5](#) (Health Care), 2021:** All staff of congregate living facilities must be vaccinated by September 30, 2021. Staff are only exempt from this order by providing qualifying medical or religious reasons to shelter operator. An exempt staff person must show a once-a-week negative COVID test. Shelter operators must maintain records of vaccination, exemption and ongoing testing status. ACHCH would like to reaffirm that the burden of getting tested rests on the **non-vaccinated staff person**. ACHCH will continue to provide staff with COVID testing as part of our regular surveillance and/or Rapid Response testing, but will not support the regular testing requirements of non-vaccinated staff.
- **Quarantine for close contacts of a COVID+ case:** ACHCH reminded folks that [current Health Officer orders](#) require a **14 day quarantine** for staff and residents of congregate facilities who have had a [close contact](#) with a COVID-19 case, regardless of vaccination status. This can be very difficult for shelter staff and residents, so it's very important to keep an eye on the close contacts (i.e. maintain your 6' distancing at all times).

Refer to [Alameda County COVID-19 Dashboards](#)

- Countywide totals as of 09/22/2021: 113,742 confirmed cases; 1,330 deaths
- **ACHCH:**
 - People experiencing homelessness (positive for COVID-19): 347 shelter; 329 unsheltered
 - Current Active outbreaks: 10 shelter, 3 unsheltered
 - Vaccinations: over 4,900 administered; Testing: over 11,000 COVID-19 tests given to people experiencing homelessness
- Check Alameda County Public Health website for testing sites; <https://covid-19.acgov.org/testing.page>
- COVID-19 vaccination information and to register, visit [MyTurn](#) website
- Visit [East Bay Getting to Zero](#) for weekly updates/information on COVID-19
- Alameda County EMS department is distributing PCR and Antigen testing kits for shelter and outreach organizations. Reach out and register your organization to learn more and order: <https://alameda-county-emergency-medical-services-agency.myshopify.com/account/login> and reach out to kreig.harmon@acgov.org for any questions.
- Vaccinations: call (510) 208-4VAX; No documentation or identification is needed; people can self-verify (self-attest) address and in identifying themselves.
- Free rides to vaccination: [East Oakland Collective](#), [Uber](#), [Lyft](#), [MyTurn.ca.gov](#)
- Visit our website for more information and to watch the COVID-19 presentation video: <https://www.achch.org/vaccine-guidance.html>

David Modersbach, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

- We are seeing a reduction in countywide COVID cases, still with ongoing sustained infection activity of people experiencing homelessness. This delta upsurge has been particularly impactful on people experiencing homelessness, as evidenced by a higher-than-previous level of infections among both shelter residents and unsheltered folks, likely due to a high degree of non-vaccination among people experiencing homelessness.

- ACHCH & partners are currently responding to three encampment outbreaks, and we have been seeing an increasing number of unsheltered persons, living in vehicles, streets and unknown backgrounds, accessing Operation Comfort with COVID-19 infection. ACHCH asks outreach and shelter partners to let us know as soon as possible, if you are working with folks who are connected to any congregate setting including encampments etc, so we can lead response.

Kerry Abbott, OHCC

- Operation Roomkey: we have seen over 1,000 move to housing from Safer Ground hotels within the last year; 71% have gone on to housing placement
- All hotels will be extended through December 2021
- Former comfort inn and days hotel are noncongregant shelter even after extension
- Alameda County was awarded \$6.5M for the homeless youth program; youth lead process by the youth action board at All-in; six month planning period.
- Tiny Homes on Fairmont campus are now open and facilitated by BOSS; 15 beds are medical respite.

Dr. Tyler Evans, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

- Right now, the third dose is available for those who are immunocompromised and 65+ years of age. We are recommending that the third dose be available for all people experiencing homelessness. The Moderna vaccine will be used as the third dose.
- Side effects of third dose should be more like the first dose of the vaccine.
- Breakthrough cases are the result of lessened immune response; the third dose will increase protection from breakthrough cases.
- People (who meet the criteria) can get the third dose 30 days after getting their second dose of Moderna/Pfizer.
- All unhoused persons are eligible for the third dose from ACHCH.
- Contact Kari Jennings-Parriott at kari.jenningsparriott@acgov.org to set up a vaccine clinic.
- If you have questions regarding unhoused persons and the vaccine, please contact Dr. Evans at tyler.evans@acgov.org.

Kari Jennings-Parriott, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

- ACHCH has started rolling out an incentive program for people receiving the COVID-19 vaccine: \$40 gift certificate for J&J vaccine and \$20 gift card for first dose of Moderna/\$20 gift card for second dose of Moderna. Please contact Kari at kari.jenningsparriott@acgov.org for more information.
- Afghan refugees re-settling in Alameda County starting this month. Please contact Dr. Kathleen Clanon if you would like to share your organization's current efforts and discuss the benefit of alignment.
- Third dose of the vaccines are available for immune compromised persons. Please contact your medical provider. If the person does not have a medical provider please refer them to one asap. ACHCH will discuss additional/protective dose in our upcoming COVID Community Call.
- **Next monthly provider training is Wednesday, September 29th from 9am-11am and will cover de-escalation with Laura Guzman from the National Harm Reduction Coalition. An email notifications are being sent with the training and Zoom link information.**
- Training for Supervisors is Tuesday, November 30th from 9am-11am. Kari will send out an email with the information.



REDUCING THE RISK OF COVID-19 WHEREVER YOU ARE

FULLY VACCINATED



2+ weeks after completing all vaccine doses
WE CAN GET TOGETHER, MASKS OPTIONAL, IN MOST INDOOR and OUTDOOR SETTINGS.



MASKS ARE STILL REQUIRED IN...

- Workplaces and businesses that require masks
- Healthcare settings
- Public transportation
- K-12 schools and childcare
- Shelters
- Jails and prisons

UNVACCINATED



OUTDOORS: LOW RISK



Keep >6 feet distance OR Wear a mask (especially when crowded)

INDOORS: HIGH RISK



Keep >6 feet distance



Wear a double or multilayer mask



Open windows and doors for ventilation

When we get vaccinated, we can do more together! LEARN MORE AT EBGTZ.ORG/COVID

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. Please continue to wear a mask, wash hands, and practice social distancing.