

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless
Weekly Homeless Provider COVID-19 Community Call
Wednesday, November 3, 2021; 10:30am-11:30am

85 Participants & Following Programs Represented:

HEPPAC, BACS, BACH, Eden I&R/211, Building Futures, Abode Services, St. Vincent de Paul, CAL-PEP, WORLD, Women's Daytime Drop-in Center, Bay Area Legal Aid, Swords to Plowshares, Fred Finch Turning Point, Healthy Black Families, Family Bridges, First Presbyterian Church of Hayward/South Hayward Parish, City of Alameda, Manna from Heaven, City of Fremont, FESCO/La Familia, Roots Community Health Center, AC Care Connect, OHCC, Dorothy Day House, The Village of Love, BOSS, Tri-Valley Haven, Covenant House, Kaiser Fremont Hospital, Operation Dignity

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 11/03/2021: 118,964 confirmed cases; 1,432 deaths
- **ACHCH:**
 - People experiencing homelessness (positive for COVID-19): 414 shelter; 405 unsheltered
 - Current Active outbreaks: 1 shelter, 1 unsheltered
 - Vaccinations: over 5,000 administered/offered at over 300 sites
 - Testing: over 11,000 administered 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>

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: \$100 gift certificate for J&J vaccine and \$50 gift card for first dose of Moderna/\$50 gift card for second dose of Moderna. Visit our website to access information for the [community care vaccination site schedule](#). Please contact Kari at kari.jenningsparriot@acgov.org for more information. ACHCH is administering vaccine booster doses at all community care vaccination sites.

- Vaccine was approved for children ages 5-11 so Kari will be contacting shelters to get a head count to administer the vaccine.
- **Next monthly provider training: Anti-Racist Trauma-Informed Care on Wednesday, November 17th from 9am-11am via Zoom.** Vo is a radical educator of 11 years in over 20 countries in inclusion, racial justice, intercultural communication, trauma-informed care, de-escalation and transformative justice. They have trained staff and board members from over 300 organizations in OR and WA since immigrating to the US in 2014. Editor of an internationally renowned publication, speaker, curator, artist and musician who has exhibited and toured in Australia, Germany, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Singapore, Croatia, Mexico, Finland, Denmark, New Zealand, Vietnam, Sweden, Malaysia, and the States. Their recent book, [Trauma X: Holding Space Radically](#), is available. Information and the Zoom link will be sent via email. Please contact kathryn.barron@acgov.org with any questions or if you need additional information.
- Training for Supervisors is Tuesday, November 30th from 9am-11am. If you are a supervisor and are interested in attending, please contact Kari Jennings-Parriott at kari.jenningsparriott@acgov.org.
- Contact Kari Jennings-Parriott at kari.jenningsparriott@acgov.org to set up a vaccine clinic.

Myette Anderson, City of Berkeley

- Two vaccine clinics
 - Drive-up at West Berkeley clinic located at Bayer Parking Lot 2500 8th Street; ages 12+ on Wednesday, November 17th from 9:30am-4pm.
 - Walk up at Ann Chandler clinic located at 830 University Avenue; Wednesday, November 3 and Monday, November 8th from 10am-1pm; 18+ (Moderna and J&J vaccines only).
 - Going out to shelters and administering vaccines; vaccine gift cards for 1st and 2nd doses.

Liz Taing, Alameda County Care Connect

- Presented on Whole Person Care Pilot changes and what will happen next
- Medi-Cal Managed Care enrollment is crucial to participate in new services
- What is CalAIM?
 - Starting January 1, 2022 some services will transition to CalAim
 - Builds on Whole Person Care, Health Homes Program, etc
 - Continues key Whole Person Care services as new benefits and services for people in Medi-Cal Managed Care
- Letters will be sent to notify people of changes through managed care plans and providers
- What does this mean for Providers?
 - Services won't change
 - ECM and some Medical Respite services will be administered by Anthem and the Alliance
 - Administered by Alameda County OHCC
 - Will get more information through organization health plan, if person is affected.
- Questions? Contact AC Care connect (510) 346-1096 or accareconnect@acgov.org.

Seth Gomez, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

- Presented COVID-19 vaccine booster updates
- Third doses/additional dose are for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. This is a third dose as part of the primary series. They are people who are less likely to have built a strong

immune response from the first two doses of the vaccine. Third dose is administered 28 days after completion of the first two doses.

- Booster doses (for the general public) are available six months after receiving second dose of Moderna or Pfizer (J&J is two months).
- Those that are fully vaccinated and still at risk of COVID-19 are eligible for a booster dose.
- ACHCH is prioritizing the COVID-19 booster dose for:
 - People who are experiencing homelessness
 - Immediate staff of shelters and outreach providers who **directly serve** people experiencing homelessness.
- Mix and matching with the booster dose is acceptable.
- ACHCH does not endorse the use of any specific product for the booster dose.

EAST BAY BETTING TO ZERO

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 OR 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.