

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless  
Outreach Provider COVID Phone Call #39  
Wednesday, December 30, 2020; 2:00pm-3:00pm

**67 Participants / Programs Represented:**

HEPPAC, Eden I&R/211 Alameda County, BACH, AHS, LifeLong Medical, Kaiser Hospital Fremont, Berkeley Food and Housing Project SSVF, Familiar Faces Crisis Services, City of Oakland HSD, Tiburcio Vasquez, Bay Area Legal Aid, Abode Services, Downtown Streets Team, House of Prayer Everywhere, Roots Community Health Center, West Oakland Punks with Lunch, PALS East Bay

1. **Introduction:** This is the 39<sup>th</sup> weekly call hosted by the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless program. Calls will be **every Wednesday from 2:00pm-3:00pm.**

- Thank you for all your hard work! This is a marathon not a sprint, so please take care of yourself so that we can continue to support the unsheltered community.
- The purpose of this call is to bring together countywide 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 unsheltered in Alameda County.
- If teams have specific issues or challenges with individuals who may be symptomatic, infected or at-risk of COVID-19, please email details to ACHCH at [achch@acgov.org](mailto:achch@acgov.org) for follow up.
- To be added to the email list for additional updates contact Kathy Barron at [kathryn.barron@acgov.org](mailto:kathryn.barron@acgov.org).

2. **Situation Report:**

**David Modersbach, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless**

- For County wide totals Refer to [Alameda County COVID-19 Dashboards](#)
  - Over 50,000 positive covid cases since beginning
  - 214 total people confirmed homeless with covid.
  - We will be going into a very heavy surge period due to recent holidays
  - We are working on response to positive and getting people tested over 4000+ tested to date
  - 8% of people who are being tested are testing positive.
  - Someone at congregate setting passed away due to covid
  - 83 rapid responses so far
  - 470 Total number of homeless w/covid including doubled up, unknowns.
- 
- 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](mailto:kathryn.barron@acgov.org) to order and pick up supplies.

- De-escalation and Conflict Management training: January 7, 2021 from 1pm-3pm. Click here to register

### 3. City and County Update:

#### Lucy Kasdin, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

- Project Roomkey: now have one COVID-19 isolation hotels in service; closely monitoring the increase of COVID-19 cases. Huge shout out to Abode Services for their work at the hotels. Re-opening second hotel and have plenty of capacity for those that need isolation or quarantine. Please be vigilant and ready to help people isolate at OC.

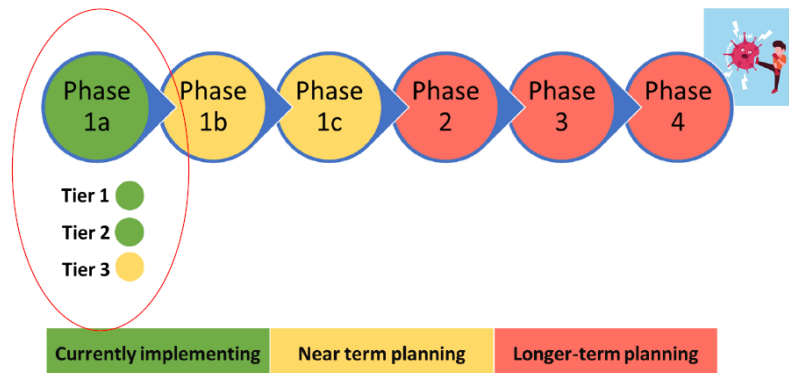
**Rachel Cole-Jensen Abode:** Working double time in supporting people getting housed out of Safer Ground hotels.

#### COVID-19 vaccine discussion:

#### David Modersbach, Health Care for the Homeless

- Please be aware that county of alameda with support from Healthcare for the homeless is providing Tier 2 of Phase 1a vaccination for healthcare workers according to [State and Federal recommendations](#)
  - Phase 1 a is for front line workers that are outward facing who are having hands on contact with people face to face
- Organization who have phase 1a employees that meet criteria for vaccination have been identified and contacted and are now supplying staff names in order to get vaccinated. Many are on this call.
- We are hoping to hear feedback on experience and questions and issues.

#### What Phase are we in?



#### Sharon at st marys

- We are deeply appreciative we have been able to identify frontline workers who do food delivery . We have heard concerns regarding those that may have asthma and allergies and people have been referred to their primary in order to get information and reassurance regarding vaccine.
- We have recommended to people to get appointment then call doctor for any questions in order to obtain an vaccine on schedule
- People had some real concerns, having people talk to their doctor seem to make a big difference

**Darren Housing consortium of the east bay**

- First staff got vaccination today and people have schedules to get their vaccine at our site.

**Dr. Harrison Alter**

**Does the vaccine mean you don' have to wear masks any more? Dr Alter answered**

- what was studied is what degree does the vaccine prevent **severe illness**. This was emphasized in order to keep medical resources from sinking, meaning hospitals. What we learned is that the vaccine is very effective at preventing severe disease, so we don't know if after you have been vaccinated you can still pass the virus to someone else. So we will need to continue to practicing mask wearing, social distancing etc.
- Phase 1a and 1b are all about preserving hospital capacity
- After those tiers will come Phase 2, essential workers peoples whose jobs are essential to keeping civil society running
- 1a -1c is at least 6 million people so its hard to predict when next phase begins
- Outreach workers who are doing face to face in encampments are being given access to the vaccine in this round.
- We are asking that organizations be ready with a list of names of staff who should be vaccinated

**Question regarding HR regarding policy should it be required?**

**Question if there are employees who do no want to get vaccinated how should we respond to that.?**

- Allowing for each employee to make their own choice
- Encouraging not demanding
- Not changing any position in lieu of choices just continuing safe practices

**The way the tiering system works for those who are not able to take opportunity right now?**

- If you are in the current phase and you are not able to get vaccinated by the time we begin the next phase you will still be able to keep you place in line to get vaccinated
- The timeline of how that will work would be in flux right now as we are still building the vaccination process.

**We are asking that you designate a point person in your agency to organize around vaccinations and that you communicate to us who that person will be in order for us to relay the necessary information back and forth**

**There are appointment still for today and tomorrow, and ACHCH is working on next vaccine PODs.**

**Revisit**

How does getting vaccinated affect our daily practices?

**The vaccine does not make us immune it just reduces the severity if we were to get sick**

**So it is important that we continue our safe practices. These practices are not going to change for the near future.**

Question regarding cultural responses in light of historical abuses regarding health practices towards marginalized communities. This question was left hanging at close of meeting as it is a large question that required ample time.

## **1. Resource Sharing, Questions and “Answers”**

### **Questions left unanswered**

Do we just submit names of our frontline staff and if they do not want to or are still apprehensive should we still just submit their names and then they can schedule or not schedule? Or should I get a firm yes before submitting names?

Hi everyone, It would helpful to understand how other nonprofits are planning to roll out the vaccine to their team. Are they mandating it or encouraging folks? For staff who don't want to get the vaccine, how are you planning to accommodate them or manage their work?

### **Resources**

- Is there any communication toolkit that we can use to effectively educate our staff?
  - <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>
- Suggestions - there is a voluntary vaccine policy template from SHRM that I think covers the logistics well. In addition to the links you just shared, we are also planning to share the ppt that Dr Alter walked us through last week with the team do a survey/collect questions from staff, and do group meetings starting next week to address their questions

- Frontline Workers Counseling Project; [www.fwcp.org](http://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.**

For any questions regarding registration or training, please email:

[CareConnectTrainings@chcnetwork.org](mailto:CareConnectTrainings@chcnetwork.org)

- Frontline Workers Counseling Project; [fwcp.org](http://fwcp.org)

Thank you all for the coordinated efforts being made to support persons living unsheltered. 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 people to wear a mask, wash hands, and practice social distancing.