

**Covid-19 Update Report**  
**D.1 11-03-2020**

Dr. Roth spoke on the overall Covid-19 case rate. For the past number of weeks, Covid-19 case numbers have risen in Europe, across our country and across our country at alarming rates. Globally, the case count passed half a million for the first time last Wednesday and then shot past 543,000 on Thursday. And then rose again on Friday by another 50,000 cases. The picture in the U.S. doesn't look much better. The surge is nationwide now. 47 states have had more cases in the last week than the week before. And that includes California. According to John Hopkins, the new cases being diagnosed at a rate faster than one per second and someone in our country is dying almost every two minutes.

Contra Costa County has not been immune from this trend, though we have been in better shape than many parts of the country. Last week our case rate was less than four cases per 100,000 which qualified us to move to the orange tier. Health Services cautiously optimistic that the County could stay in that range even while opening additional indoor activities and businesses that were allowed in the orange tier and that has not been days.

Our numbers rise over the past week at concerning rates. As of today we are at 5.1 cases per 100,000. That is sort of best-case scenario and one more week at this case rate could move the county back to a more restrictive tier. There was close to 120 more cases on this Monday than the Monday prior. Two-thirds of these increases have been for people in the age range of 19-50.

These people are working essential jobs, having contact with the public, in jobs like restaurant servers, grocery store clerks, healthcare workers, first responders. These people who are leaving home on a regular basis. No matter why people leave their homes, we know that leaving your home makes you more susceptible to this infection. This is a respiratory airborne infection and we know you increase your risk when you are moving around the community.

Hospitalizations in Contra Costa in mid-October had fallen down to the low 20s, but in the past few weeks, they have actually started to creep up and now are consistently around 35. Health Services is closely watching these trends and working with the contact tracing team to understand where the spread is happening and how to address it in effective and targeted ways.

Testing rates are up. On October 27th, as an example, we tested 5,079 people, well above the target of 4,500 a day. Health Services is also planning particular testing pushes, including a testing push focus on the Latinx community this Saturday at West County Health Center in San Pablo. Thanks to the United Latino Voices that have been instrumental in making this happen, and extensive outreach efforts within the community. This offering will be testing as well as for those who get tested, we will be offering flu shots between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 at the West County Health Center in San Pablo.

Other services will be available. People will be able to get in your car and drive across the street and get groceries through St. Vincent DePaul.

Dr. Farnitano reported hearing from the state yesterday that their weekly data report and tier assignment report that usually comes out on Tuesdays is delayed because of the election and will be coming out tomorrow. He said it is really important that we let the data drive our actions. The data can change quickly and we have to be prepared to pivot when the numbers say we should.

Health Services will take a very close look at those state numbers when they are released tomorrow for any concerning trends that indicate the need for quick action, and continue to look at our own internal numbers every single day and those numbers are worrisome and suggest we may need to take action very soon. Cases and hospitalization have been rising across the Bay Area.

Over the past months the Bay Area counties have been debating whether to open business.

We hear from across the state that some counties are struggling to reach the testing goals set by the state.

Contra Costa is ramping up the testing numbers consistently, but there are open appointments every day that are going unfilled. More testing is desired.