

D.1 May 18 2021 Covid Update Report

Anna Roth, Health Services Director

Ms. Roth recognized that this EMS Week and recognize all of the county's EMS partners as well as the EMS division for working so hard and going above and beyond this last year to safeguard the health and safety and well-being of our communities.

She also reminded us that this week marks the 45 year anniversary of the tragic loss of 28 students and one teacher from Yuba City Union High School, in one of the worst bus disasters in U.S. history. There will be a remembrance Friday, May 21 down at the memorial at the Martinez waterfront. That memorial was constructed by firefighters who responded to that event.

As of Monday, May 17, 2021 Health Services has administered more than 1.2 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. 70% of the county has had at least one dose, almost 60% is fully vaccinated.

The county remains in the orange tier of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy and is expected to remain so until June 15th, when the blueprint will be discontinued in favor of what the governor is calling Beyond the Blueprint.

The masking guidelines in Contra Costa County will align with state recommendations, slightly different than the recent announcements from the CDC (Center for Disease Control).

1. Fully vaccinated people are not required to wear a mask outside. An exception to that, for safety, is if the person finds themselves in a very crowded event like a live performance or fair.
2. Fully vaccinated people could do social visits without masking or social distancing with one household. If high-risk people are present, consider wearing a mask.
3. For unvaccinated people, if they are outside and cannot maintain six feet social distancing, they should wear a face covering.
4. For indoor business settings, it is recommended to wear a face covering regardless of your vaccination status. This includes public transportation.

Vaccination of the 12-15 age group began last week. If receiving the two-dose version of vaccine, it will be 3-4 weeks before being considered fully vaccinated. Many people will be able to get fully vaccinated before the state opens up more on June 15th.

Vaccination appointments are available across the county, walk-ins welcome in most places. There are many slots available. A schedule of school sites clinics (one need not be a student) is available on the county Health Services website at cchealth.org. The ones at Concord and Antioch High Schools opened today. The emergency authorization for people under 18 is Pfizer. That is the one being used at the schools.

Vaccination is open to all 12 years and older. There is no requirement for residency or work status in Contra Costa and the vaccine is free.

Ms. Roth acknowledged the assistance and partnership of Kaiser Permanente and the Contra Costa County Office of Education, who have been very instrumental in opening sites and administering vaccines.

Chris Farnitano, M.D., Public Health Officer

Dr. Farnitano addressed the co-administration of the Covid vaccines. In the exciting news last week that vaccination was available for those 12-15 it was likely missed that the CDC lifted their recommendation that people wait two weeks between getting the Covid vaccine and other routine vaccinations. It is okay to get other vaccinations as well.

He noted the importance of this as children are preparing to return to school in the fall. The two week delay was a cautionary measure to allow close monitoring of any reactions to the Covid vaccine. This is no longer needed.

Childhood immunizations have fallen drastically since the beginning of the pandemic, as well as routine wellness checkups for children. For many years vaccines like the measles, mumps, rubella and chicken box and tetanus and whooping cough are not only given together, they are given together in the same syringe. It is known that these vaccines work just as well when they are given together, and it reduces chance for a missed opportunity to get vaccinations.

This means that multiple trips to get necessary childhood vaccinations and the covid vaccine are not necessary. They can be received at the same appointment.

Dr. Samir Shah, Chief Executive Officer, Contra Costa Regional Medical Center

Dr. Shah spoke on the impact the Covid pandemic has had on routine and preventative health care. When the pandemic began, CCRMC, the clinics, pivoted due to circumstances in our community. The focus of energy and partnership with the rest of the Health Department, specifically the Public Health portion of the department in dedicating resources and time, effort and people to help with care of COVID, prevention of transmission, support for the community, et cetera.

While not losing focus of our primary mission to care for the patients that we do care for, circumstances required a pivot of energy and resources in many ways. Now that pandemic conditions have improved, CCRMC is refocusing efforts on the primary mission of caring for people typically served by the county, the underserved and the folks on Medi-Cal and Medicare in our community.

And as we pivot, I think it is important for all of us to understand and appreciate where we are today, which is very different than where we were at the start of 2020.

Gabriela Sullivan, Specialty Medical Director, Contra Costa Regional Medical Center

Powerpoint presentation attached.