

## **D.1 Covid-19 Update Report November 2, 2021**

Anna Roth, Health Services Director

Cases rates have continued to decline over the last month. Contra Costa County is now at 7.9 cases per 100,000 compared to 13.2 cases per 100,000 a month ago. That is a 40% decrease.

The highest rates of infection remain in the 5-12 and 30-39 year old age groups, which are higher than the overall population. Testing has decreased from about 6700 per day a month ago down to approximately 5500 new tests per day now. The positivity rate has declined, we are now at 2.1%. We have known cases of covid in our detention facilities.

Our hospitalizations have also gone down. We are at 59 patients hospitalized currently, as compared to 83 a month ago. We have 18 people in critical care and that's compared to 37 a month ago.

Though these are welcome numbers, while we do continue to see this improvement we are seeing a plateau. The rates aren't declining at the rate we were seeing in previous weeks, it has leveled off. We're no longer seeing a sharp decrease but we certainly have seen improvement.

Contra Costa is administering about 3800 boosters vaccines per day as well as about new first-dose vaccine doses per day. Local pharmacies are administering a little bit over 50% of all the doses, very welcome assistance..

We are closely tracking three criteria for lifting the indoor mask orders: case rates, hospitalizations and vaccination rate. The County is in what is known as the substantial tier, using the CDC (Center for Disease Control) tracker. We must be in the moderate tier for three consecutive weeks.

We had 339 people hospitalized which means we meet the criteria for the hospitalizations and have seen a significant drop from where we were in September, down to 59.

And then the third measure is actually a two-part measure, that can be met two ways. One is that 80% of the total population would be fully vaccinated, and currently we're at 73% of the eligible population. We need 84,000 more people vaccinated in order to reach the overall 80%.

It's important to note there are 92,000 children in Contra Costa who are within the ages of 5 to 11. It is anticipated that final FDA approval will come later in this week. Health Services really wants to see those kids come in for vaccinations.

## Chief Equity Officer Gilbert Salinas

We conducted a community engagement survey in June of 2021. The survey is assessing the effectiveness and impact of outreach and community engagement strategies that we've used throughout the pandemic response.

When we asked respondents to rate CCHS's community response to the Covid-19 pandemic, 71% set it was excellent, or fair. 20% indicated it needs improvement. Among Latino respondents or Latinx respondents, 44% said the response needs improvement.

The most trusted sources for Covid-19 forecast were the cchealth.org website and historically marginalized communities work group meetings that we have hosted throughout the pandemic based on the survey results. Along those same lines our most successful strategies been our community partnerships with churches, nonprofits, community groups, and schools.

I want to acknowledge the hard work from our community engagement and outreach unit, and our historically marginalized communities work up groups that have been established.

## Dr. Sophie Mekuria, Deputy Health Officer

CCHS has requested about 20,000 doses of the pediatric version of the Pfizer vaccine, which is the same version, one-third the dose given the teens and adults. The vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective in this population and also generated good immune response.

We encourage everyone to reach out to their regular health care provider for the fastest route of getting the younger members of your family this important protection. Remember that a parent or guardian will have to be present with these younger people.

We expect to be offering pediatric vaccines by November 6th at our county run sites if everything gets approved as expected.

I've been working with our partners at school districts throughout county and we anticipate standing up clinics and schools in the coming weeks to make vaccines easy for students and families.

In regard to pregnancy and the covid vaccine, the CDC has determined that the Covid-19 vaccine is safe for pregnant and nursing people. Of the pregnant patients are vaccinated, 33% are black African American, 43% are white, 77% are Asian. Vaccination rate in the 12 plus population, includes Hispanic populations 81% and has exceeded the vaccination rate in the white population which is at 78%. The gap in African American vaccination has also narrowed and presently at 69%.

As we've seen a decrease in cases in hospitalizations over the past several weeks, in the indoor masking order has loosened for some places where everyone is fully vaccinated if certain conditions are met.

Eligible settings are in controlled spaces not open to the general public, including offices, gyms and fitness centers, employee commuter vehicles, indoor college classes and organized gatherings in any other indoor setting, such as a religious gathering. Under the order, participating businesses, organizations and hosts must verify that all patrons, employees and attendees are fully vaccinated before allowing people inside their facilities not to wear face coverings. There can be no more than 100 persons present at these facilities, and the group of those present must gather on a regular basis. Those present should also not have COVID-19 symptoms. The employer host or general organizer, should prohibit entry by persons who have cough fever or other persons who can be consistent with covid-19 or are awaiting results of covid-19 test or have had known exposure to someone who has been infected with covid-19 in the last 14 days.

As we prepare to take our masks off in these days, we lower our protection from other illnesses. It is time to get the flu shot. They are available at pharmacies and health care centers. You no longer have to allow any time passage from getting your covid-19 vaccine or flu shot. In fact you can do them at the same time. This is also a great time to check all immunizations for your children as well.

Dr. Mekuria recommends that all eligible children get Covid-19 vaccine. Recently the 5 to 12 age group has had the highest case rates compared to other age groups.