

## COVID-19 Situation Update for ACUSD Board Meeting

Dr. Rita Kerr, Amador County Health Officer

May 12, 2021

- **1,780** confirmed cases of COVID-19 to date in Amador County residents (**excluding MCSP inmates**)
- Active Cases in Amador as of today: **10** (cases are released from Isolation when they're no longer contagious)
- **One** Amador County resident is currently hospitalized with COVID-19

The overall trend of COVID activity in Amador County has improved. The currently active cases in Amador County are in family and neighborhood case clusters. The case episode date is the first day of symptoms or the date the positive test was collected, whichever is earlier. Case episode counts by week over the past four weeks:

- Apr 11 - 17: **15** cases
- Apr 18 - 24: **11** cases
- Apr 25 – May 1: **5** cases (the interval that determines this week's tier assignment)
- So far for the week of May 2 - 8: **6** case episodes (this number may go up as some people wait a few days after symptoms begin to get tested, and more lab results are received)

As fewer cases of COVID have been occurring in the community, fewer students and staff are out of ACUSD schools due to isolation or quarantine. Currently **5** individuals are on that list. A school cluster or outbreak is defined as: at least three probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period who are epidemiologically-linked in the setting, are from different households, and are not identified as close contacts of each other in any other case investigation. While there have been instances of more than one case in a given classroom setting in Amador County, none of those episodes have met the definition for a classroom cluster or outbreak.

Current Amador Case Rate per 100,000 population is **2.2**

Current Amador test positivity rate is **1.2%**

- Current Amador County Tier Assignment: **Orange**
- The Blueprint rules require a county to spend a minimum of 3 weeks in the current tier before advancing to the next less restrictive tier, and have two weeks in a row of improved metrics to advance
- This week is Amador County's third week in the Orange tier
- The Apr 25 – May 1 metrics earned Amador County one week of meeting criteria toward the Yellow tier
- In order to move to Yellow next week, the test positivity rate will have to stay **<2%**, and the case rate would have had to be **<2/100,000** (**5** or fewer case episodes for the week of May 2 - 8)
- Since Amador County has **>5** cases for that week, the small county alternative metric using absolute case count of **<14** cases could be applied and allow Amador to move to the Yellow tier **IF** the percentage of Amador County residents having received at least one dose of vaccine is within **5%** of the statewide average

### COVID-19 VACCINE Update:

- Over **29,250** doses have been administered to date to persons who live in Amador County
- **57.4%** of Amador County residents age 16+ have had at least one dose of vaccine
- The Statewide average is **62.7%**, so Amador is not quite within the 5% margin this week (0.3% too low)
- Vaccine uptake has slowed in Amador County over the past few weeks, appointment slots are not filling
- Amador County would have to catch up toward the statewide average in order to rely on the **<14** absolute case count to move to the Yellow tier based on the absolute case count
- Over **12,100** Amador residents age 16+ are fully vaccinated, and about **5,000** have had their first dose of the two-dose vaccine series
- **30.6%** of Amador County's **total** population have been fully vaccinated (36% of people 18 and older, and 58.2% of those **>=** age 65)
- When you've been fully vaccinated, you can: gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask; gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without masks (unless any of those people or anyone they live with is at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19)
- Fully vaccinated people also do **NOT** need to quarantine if they are a close contact to a case of COVID-19, as long as they remain without symptoms (this includes they may go to work, as CalOSHA has accepted this updated guidance)
- Fully vaccinated people do not need to wear a face covering in public outdoors, unless they are in a crowd
- The vaccines are very effective at preventing severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and death, so getting more people vaccinated will help hospitalization rates remain stable and low and allow us to keep progressing in the reopening process
- Immunity through vaccination slows the spread and lessens the emergence of variant strains of the virus

- Upcoming Public Health COVID-19 vaccine clinics:
  - Friday, May 14 at Evalynn Bishop Hall in Lone will be a Moderna clinic from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 – 3:30 p.m.
    - Second-dose for those who got their first dose in Lone four weeks ago
    - First-doses of Moderna vaccine will also be available in Lone on a drop-in basis, register on site
  - Saturday, May 15 in Jackson at St. Patrick’s Church Breaking Bread, 9 – 11 a.m. J&J vaccine walk-in clinic
  - Tuesday, May 18 at the Health & Human Services Building we are planning to offer both Pfizer and the J&J vaccines between 1 – 5 p.m.
  
- Currently eligible groups to receive vaccine:
  - All persons age 16 and older who live or work in Amador County
  - Those under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or bring a signed consent to be vaccinated
    - The consent form is available on the [amadorgov.org](http://amadorgov.org) COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics webpage
  - On Monday, May 10 the FDA extended the Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer vaccine to be given to persons age 12 and up
    - The CDC ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) met earlier today, reviewed the data, and voted 14-0 (with one abstention) to recommend use of the Pfizer vaccine for ages 12+
    - The Western States Scientific group is meeting today as well to review this expanded age group use
  - Once the recommendation has been finalized, Pfizer vaccine may be administered to those ages 12+
  - In addition to the Public Health clinics, we also plan to coordinate with pediatricians, schools and pharmacies to vaccinate adolescents
  
- Amador County now schedules vaccine appointments via the MyTurn app
  - Visit [myturn.ca.gov](http://myturn.ca.gov) or call 1-833-422-4255 for assistance
  - MyTurn also allows us to accept walk-in patients at our vaccine clinics, subject to vaccine availability
  - However, walk-ins may experience longer wait times at the vaccine clinics (those who have appointments are prioritized)
  - Walk-ins must arrive at least one hour before the clinic ending time
  
- Other clinics in Amador County that vaccinate their patients include Sutter Health and WellSpace Health
- Those who get care at Kaiser or other health systems may also be able to access vaccine through their provider
- Four pharmacies in Amador County offer COVID vaccines - visit [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov) to search for availability by type of vaccine
  - CVS
  - Safeway
  - Walgreen’s
  - Walmart

The No-Cost OptumServe testing site remains at the back entrance of the HHS building off Lower Ridge Road. It is still available Mon-Wed-Sat, but hours have changed to **7 a.m. – 3 p.m.** No appointment necessary, just drive up and park at the cones and staff will assist with on-site registration and swab collection. Adults and children can be tested, with results in 2 days. If you would like to schedule ahead, go to [lhi.care/covidtesting](http://lhi.care/covidtesting) or call 1-888-634-1123.

The State is still anticipating moving “Beyond the Blueprint” on June 15, meaning that most capacity restrictions and closures by sector will be lifted statewide on that date. School guidance documents will be updated by the State before school resumes in the fall. Meanwhile, as tier movement and updated guidance allows for more activities and events to take place, we all need to continue consistently practicing the measures that help limit spread of COVID-19. For schools: symptom screening, stable groups, face coverings, adequate spacing between desks and proper ventilation are key strategies. Outdoor activities are safer than indoors. Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.

School activities including sports, graduation/promotion ceremonies and events need to be planned in keeping within the guidelines referenced on the California Safe Schools for All website.

It is particularly important that anyone who feels ill (even with mild symptoms) stay home, especially if waiting for COVID-19 test results. If you don’t feel great? Please isolate.