

COVID-19 Situation Update for ACUSD Board Meeting

Dr. Rita Kerr, Amador County Health Officer

April 28, 2021

- **1,767** confirmed cases of COVID-19 to date in Amador County residents (**excluding MCSP inmates**)
- **3** additional Amador County residents cases confirmed today
- **Zero** Amador County residents are hospitalized due to COVID-19 today

Active Cases in Amador as of today: **19** (cases are released from Isolation when they're no longer contagious)

- Current Amador Case Rate per 100,000 population is **5.2** Current Amador test positivity rate is **1.5%**
- Current Amador County Tier Assignment: **Orange** (Moderate)

The case episode date is the first day of symptoms or the date the positive test is collected, whichever is earlier. Case counts by week during April:

- Mar 28-Apr 3: **29** cases
- Apr 4-10: **20** cases
- Apr 11-17: **15** cases (the number that determined this week's tier assignment)
- So far for the week of April 18-24: **11** case episodes (this number may go up as some people wait a few days after their symptoms begin to get tested, and more lab results are received)

Contact tracing continues to identify travel, social gatherings, and household contacts as factors in COVID-19 transmission in Amador County. Close contacts are defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of a contagious person for 15 minutes or more. Now that students are seated less than six feet apart in classrooms, more students have been placed on quarantine as close contacts to positive cases who were at school. Cases are considered contagious for two days before symptoms start or two days before the positive test was collected, whichever is earlier.

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.

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. Continued risk reduction measures such as wearing face coverings and favoring outdoor activities over indoor activities will still be in place. Getting more people vaccinated will help hospitalization rates remain low and stable, 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.

Amador County Public Health has confirmed a case of the B.1.1.7 variant in a county resident. It is likely that this variant has been present in the county for many weeks. The B.1.1.7 strain is estimated to have caused 44.7% of cases in the United States and about 20% of cases in California during the last half of March. The "West Coast" variants, B.1.427/B.1.429, now cause over 50% of cases in California. All of the COVID vaccines authorized for use in the United States are effective against the B.1.1.7 and the "West Coast" variants.

COVID-19 VACCINE Update: over **26,500** doses have been administered to date to persons who live in Amador County

- **10, 272** Amador residents are fully vaccinated, and about **6,000** have had their first dose of the two-dose vaccine series
- **26%** of Amador County's **total** population have been fully vaccinated (30% of people 18 and older, and 55% of \geq 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

- As more experience is showing the vaccines' effectiveness in the "real world," the CDC announced updated guidance for fully vaccinated people yesterday, indicating that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask outdoors unless they are in a crowded setting
- Amador County has received an allocation of Pfizer vaccine this week, which now allows us to offer vaccine to persons age 16 and older
 - A Pfizer vaccine first-dose clinic will be held at the Health and Human Services building off lower Ridge Road on Wednesday, May 5; the second-dose clinic will be 3 weeks later
- Currently eligible 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
- Amador County Public Health now schedules vaccine appointments via the MyTurn app
 - Visit 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

We know what works. We can stop the spread of COVID in schools by layering and carefully implementing mitigation strategies, including masks, stable groups, proper ventilation, washing hands, symptom screening, testing, and contact tracing. Vaccination adds another layer of protection on top of these measures, which even those who have received vaccine need to continue practicing at this time. 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? Isolate.