

ACUSD Board COVID-19 Update

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COVID-19 Situation Report:

Amador Resident Confirmed Cases to Date: **1,511** (+89 since last ACUSD Board update 2 wks ago)
283 cases have been confirmed since January 1, 2021

Active Cases as of Tuesday evening: **58** (cases are released from Isolation when they are no longer contagious)

Current Amador test positivity rate is **5.4%**

Current Amador County Tier Assignment: Purple (Widespread)

Since the Regional Stay at Home Order ended in California on January 25, youth sports may resume according to the tier color structure with precautions per the guidance published by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Although that guidance only allows for competition between immediately bordering counties, the six schools of the Mother Lode League have written a proposal to allow for play between the three counties of Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne. The health officers of these three counties have reviewed the proposal and are submitting a letter to CDPH, asking for approval of Inter-Team Competitions between Amador and Tuolumne County schools.

While the overall trend (for Amador County & California) of case count and positivity rate has improved since the surge that took place over the holidays, COVID-19 activity has plateaued in Amador County at a level that keeps us in the Purple tier. The case episode date is the first day of symptoms or the date the positive test is collected, whichever is earlier. These are Amador County residents case episode counts by week for the past three weeks:

- **41** during the week of Jan 10-16
- **35** during the week of Jan 17-23
- **48** during the week of Jan 24-30
- **23** cases so far for the week of Jan 31-Feb 6 (this number is expected go up as more lab results are received, and people who wait a few days after symptoms begin get tested)

Amador's test positivity rate peaked at **13.7%** the 1st week of January, improved to **3.1%** last week, and is currently back up to **5.4%**

Amador County's current Tier Assignment: **PURPLE** (Tier assignment metrics exclude state prison inmates)

- The two data metrics that determine each county's Tier color assignment on the State's Blueprint are case rate and test positivity rate
- The more restrictive of the two metrics is what determines the tier color assignment
- To move back to the RED Tier, the case rate needs to be less than **7/100,000/day** (fewer than **19** cases/week for Amador County) AND the test positivity rate needs to remain **<8%**
- A county must meet the criteria for the next less restrictive tier for **both** measures for the prior **two** consecutive weeks in order to progress to the next tier in the third week
- Therefore, it is impossible for Amador to move into the Red tier before March

Amador County's community no-cost COVID-19 nasal swab testing site has moved to the Health and Human Services Building on Conductor Boulevard off Lower Ridge Road, back entrance. It is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Children can be tested at this site. Appointments may be made by visiting lhi.care/covidtesting or calling 1-888-634-1123. Drop-in testing is available without an appointment and the staff will assist with registration on-site. Results are available within 2-3 days.

Contact tracing of school-related cases in Amador County to date has not confirmed any classroom transmission of COVID-19. Close contacts are advised to get tested during quarantine at 5-7 days after their exposure, or anytime if they develop symptoms. As of today, no school contacts of classroom cases have become positive.

Amador County Public Health continues to coordinate with the ACUSD school nurses to ensure that students and staff who have any symptoms, and those who are in isolation or quarantine, are not on site at school campuses. It is very important in order for schools to stay open that anyone who is sick, even with a mild symptom, stay home. During our Contact Tracing calls, Public Health frequently hears stories from people who have tested positive that didn't think their mild symptoms could be COVID-19. Often, they believed they had allergies, a common cold, or food poisoning. Although the symptoms and the course of COVID-19 may be mild for that individual, they are at risk for spreading to others who may be vulnerable to more severe illness if they continue to work, attend school or interact with others. Consistently practicing proper use of face coverings, maintaining physical distance of at least 6 feet from others, and frequent hand hygiene are also crucial to minimize risk of virus spread.

The State's COVID-19 "Safe Schools for All" webpage at schools.covid19.ca.gov has resources for school administrators, staff and families.

Public Health has supported ACUSD to provide COVID vaccinations to educators and school staff, with two clinics held at the Amador High School gym. American Legion Ambulance service has been a key partner in these vaccination efforts. Second-dose clinics will be scheduled for a month after the first doses.

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