

## ACUSD Board COVID-19 Update

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### COVID-19 Situation Report:

Amador Resident Confirmed Cases to Date: **1,611** (+41 since last ACUSD Board update on 2/24/21)  
**381** cases have been confirmed since January 1, 2021

Active Cases as of Sunday evening: **34** (cases are released from Isolation when they are no longer contagious)

- Current Amador Case Rate per 100,000 population is **9.3**
- Current Amador test positivity rate is **2.7%**
- Current Amador County Tier Assignment: **Purple** (Widespread)

COVID-19 activity has plateaued in Amador County and the nation overall. Although Amador's test positivity rate would allow for a less restrictive tier assignment, the case rate per 100,000 is still 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. Case episode counts by week for the past month:

- **32** during the week of Jan 31-Feb 6
- **33** during the week of Feb 7-13
- **21** during the week of Feb 14-20
- **26** case episodes during for the week of Feb 21-27 (the interval that determines Amador's tier color assignment for this week)
- **10** cases so far for the week of Feb 28-Mar 6 (this number may go up as some people wait a few days after symptoms begin to get tested, and more lab results are received)

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
- Currently, to move back from Purple to the Red Tier, the case rate needs to be less than **7/100,000** (no more than **18** cases/week for Amador County) AND the test positivity rate needs to remain **<8%**. A county must meet criteria for the next less restrictive tier for **both** measures for the prior **two** consecutive weeks in order to progress to the next less restrictive tier
- On March 4, the State announced the "Blueprint Refresh" which will incorporate vaccination efforts into the tier structure by adjusting the metric goals based on vaccine targets
- Once the entire state reaches the health equity metric of 2 million COVID-19 vaccines administered to the lowest Healthy Places Index (HPI) quartile of the population, the threshold to move from Purple to Red Tier will be raised from 7 to 10 cases per 100,000 (for Amador County, that would be **27** cases per week or less).
- As of today, 1,845,854 vaccines have been administered to the lowest quartile HPI population in California
- It is projected that the 2 million doses threshold will be reached in mid-March

Amador County's community no-cost COVID-19 nasal swab testing site is at 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](https://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.

What defines a close contact at school? The period of contagion for COVID-19 starts 2 days before symptom onset (or if a person who tests positive had no symptoms, 2 days before the test was collected). Younger students (grades TK through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) stay in the same stable group per classroom for the whole school day, and have lunch and recess together. When a TK-6<sup>th</sup> grade student has been at school while contagious, the entire classroom group is considered exposed and quarantined for 10 days. For students in grades 7-12, who do not stay in stable groups but change classes several times per school day, maintaining at least six feet between student chairs means that classroom contacts do not meet the definition of “close contact” (that is, spending more than 15 minutes over the course of the day less than six feet from the contagious person). Contact tracing for junior high and high school student cases has elicited close contacts from lunch or break period social mixing and extracurricular (e.g., athletic practice) contacts. If the student chairs in 7-12 grade classrooms were spaced less than six feet apart, then those students seated within that lesser distance from a contagious person would be considered close contacts and they would be required to quarantine for 10 days from the last date of exposure. The health and safety guidance calls for teachers to maintain six feet distance from students as much as possible, avoiding closer contact for more than 15 minutes duration per day. Consistent, proper use of face coverings also helps mitigate the risk of transmission.

Amador County Public Health continues to coordinate with the ACUSD Educational Services department and 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. To date, since ACUSD schools resumed in-person instruction last November, **543** students and staff have been placed on the school exclusion list for the duration of their isolation or quarantine. That number includes both in-school and household or community COVID exposures.

It is very important for schools to stay open that anyone who is a close contact or who is sick, even with a mild symptom, stay home. During Contact Tracing calls, Public Health frequently hears stories from people with positive tests who didn't think their mild symptoms could be COVID-19. Often, they believed they had allergies, a common cold, or “stomach flu.” 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.

We know what works. We can stop the spread of COVID in schools by layering and carefully implementing mitigation strategies, including masks, stable groups that minimize mixing, proper ventilation, washing hands, symptom screening and testing. Vaccination adds another layer of protection on top of these measures, which even persons who have received vaccine need to continue practicing at this time. The CDC has provided guidance that 2 weeks after their second dose, persons who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 have adequate immunity and do not need to quarantine during at least the first 90 days after receiving the second dose of vaccine.

The State's COVID-19 “Safe Schools for All” webpage at [schools.covid19.ca.gov](https://schools.covid19.ca.gov) has resources for school administrators, staff and families to support safe in-person instruction.