

COVID-19 in Oakland, California

As we continue to witness the evolution of new variants of COVID-19 — most recently [BA.5](#) — we are reminded that the virus is still around. The BA.5 variant appears to be re-infecting individuals relatively quickly, even those who have already had COVID-19 and those who have been vaccinated. The COVID-19 situation has not plateaued and has in fact become worse in high-risk communities, where we continue to see high levels of infection rates and hospitalizations. Specifically, BA.5 is currently the most dominant variant showing up in the California Bay Area. Therefore, it is essential to receive the COVID-19 vaccination and booster shot to reduce rates among vulnerable and minority populations. Since becoming available, [Hispanics have been less likely to receive a booster](#), increasing their overall risk.

Although there has been a collective effort throughout California to get vaccinated, get boosted, and wear masks indoors, there are communities that remain extremely vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19. Those in Oakland, especially those residing in the 94603 zip code where 58% of the residents are Hispanic or Latino, remain highly susceptible to infection. Since the beginning of vaccine roll outs, less than 57% of those eligible in East Oakland have gotten fully vaccinated. In Alameda County, Hispanics continue to have the lowest rates of vaccination among those who have received at least one dose (77.5%) and those fully vaccinated (71.2%) compared to other races/ethnicities.

In recent months, Californians have made strides in advancing protection against the virus; [65% of the Hispanic population](#) have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. As efforts continue to ensure the safety of the population through vaccination availability, research has allowed for an expansion in vaccine eligibility. In early June, the [CDC](#) endorsed the recommendation that children from 6 months through 5 years should also receive their COVID-19 vaccines, though as of July 11, 2022, [only 23% of Hispanic children](#) ages 5-11 in California have received a vaccine.

In response to COVID-19 transmission rates rising, individuals have been encouraged to wear masks and other states have required it. However, mask mandates have been controversial since the beginning. California is one of the few states with a mask mandate requiring individuals to wear their masks at all times. This mandate was mostly lifted in late June given that the highly populated [Alameda County](#) moved from high risk to moderate risk for transmission. Regardless of vaccination status, however, [masks must continue](#) to be worn in indoor settings where individuals require it or on trains, buses, or other ride-share operations, in healthcare settings, state and local correctional facilities and detention centers, and shelters.

With the expansion of vaccine eligibility, it is essential to remind individuals that the pandemic is not over. COVID-19 will continue to impact Hispanic communities. In order to encourage our community, NHHF is proud to partner with The Rockefeller Foundation to support chapters affiliated with the Hispanic Dental Association, National Association

of Hispanic Nurses, and other community-based organizations focused on Hispanic health to participate in community action grants. Grants continue to be distributed for groups to organize events or programs in three target communities — Houston, Oakland, and Chicago — to increase vaccination uptake of the seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Currently, organizations such as the Hispanic Dental Association, Council of Young Physicians of NHMA, and El Puente Comunitario have reached out to support the city of Oakland through these grants. Additionally, NHHF and the Rockefeller Foundation have partnered for the **Hispanic Physicians Building Community through COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness and Equity campaign**.

The NHHF is dedicated to working with community leaders, organizations, and the vibrant Latino community at large in Oakland to ensure communities are receiving accurate information, including the following:

Testing:

<https://myturn.ca.gov/#>

- To find a testing site by zip code
- To find a walk in clinic
- Make an appointment

Accessing at home testing:

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/covid-19>

- Ordering at home testing kits
- Finding testing sites
- Guidelines on vaccination cards

<https://covid-19.acgov.org/testing>

- Community testing site locations
- Community testing site calendar
- At home testing kits
- Information about quarantine

Spanish:

<https://www.alamedahealthconsortium.org/general/community-covid19-testing-at-la-clinica-and-native-american-health-center/>

- Spanish flier presenting resources in spanish
- Clinic information

COVID-19 Vaccine finder:

<https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines>

Pediatric Covid- 19 vaccine and testing:

Search myturn.ca.gov

This site is specifically for COVID-19 vaccines and testing in the state of California.

Tests and vaccinations are available for children and adults. Locate a testing site near you below. Then click “Learn more” to schedule an appointment (if one is needed) and

see other testing guidelines for that location. Some locations that test for COVID-19 can also prescribe medication to eligible people who test positive.