COVID-19 Case Trends – Rising Cases from the Omicron Variant

COVID-19 case rates continue to increase in Santa Cruz County. Public Health’s surge response will focus on supporting the healthcare system, supporting the community with COVID-19 preparedness, and maintaining Public Health operations.

Based on local modeling data, we predict that our case rate will peak in late January and hospitalizations will peak in early February.

Individual behaviors DO make a difference to SLOW the spread. What you can do during the Omicron Surge:

- Get vaccinated and boosted.
- Upgrade your mask for fit and filtration (N95, KF94, KN95, surgical masks).
- Improve ventilation and air filtration.
- Avoid high-risk, indoor activities.

Testing

Testing Appointment information is available at the Santa Cruz County COVID-19 Testing Website. Appointments are recommended for all County locations:

- **Santa Cruz City**: Open Monday-Friday from 7am-7pm by appointment only at the Depot Freight building (119 Center Street).
- **Felton**: Located at Mountain Community Resources (6134 Highway 9). Open Friday-Tuesday from 10am-6pm.
- **Ramsay Park**: Open Wednesday-Sunday from 7am-6:45pm; closed 11am-12pm and 4pm-5pm. **Closed on 1/17/22**.
- **Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds**: Open Monday-Friday from 10am-5pm. Registration required. Link to register for all COE/Inspire Clinics here.

For individuals taking a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test at home, it’s important to follow California Department of Public Health guidelines and test instructions for reporting.

Vaccinations

On 1/10/2022, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) approved the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation of:

- Booster doses for Moderna are now provided at a 5-month interval;
- and Expanded eligibility of Moderna additional doses for immunocompromised individuals 18+.

Details on new guidance Boosters and Additional Doses available here.

**Watsonville Vaccine Center** (250 Main Street): Open Thursday-Sunday from 9:30am-5pm by appointment only for Individuals 5+.

To schedule an appointment or find a walk-in clinic in Santa Cruz County visit:

- HSA COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage, or
- My Turn

All COVID-19 Vaccine appointments are available at no-cost and regardless of insurance status.

New! State and Federal COVID-19 Guidance

- K-12 Schools Guidance and FAQ (1/12/22)
- Isolation/Quarantine Guidance (1/8/22)
- Guidance for Face Coverings (1/5/22)
- CalOSHA Standards to Align with CDPH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance (1/8/22)
- COVID-19 Booster Vaccines Fact Sheet (1/10/22)
- Requirements for Visiting Hospitals or Nursing Homes (1/7/22)

Public Health Reminders

- This is going to be a hard month, but it will end soon.
- Given the movement of people and faster spread of COVID-19, it's best to assume that you are interacting with people who are infectious, or you may be infectious.
- It is difficult to contain this surge - we are riding the wave. People who are doing "everything right" may become positive. Practice compassion to your family, friends, and yourself.

www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus

Operation Period 76.1 | Activation Level 1 | 1/14/2022