

Santa Cruz County Public Health COVID-19 Emergency Response Executive Summary 1/21/2022



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.

The number of cases is double what we saw during the peak of last year's surge. We anticipate that cases will peak in late January-early February.

Reproductive number median estimate is below 1, which indicates transmission is not increasing. (This makes sense because the 14-day change graph to the right - indicates a possible peak is happening/has happened).

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

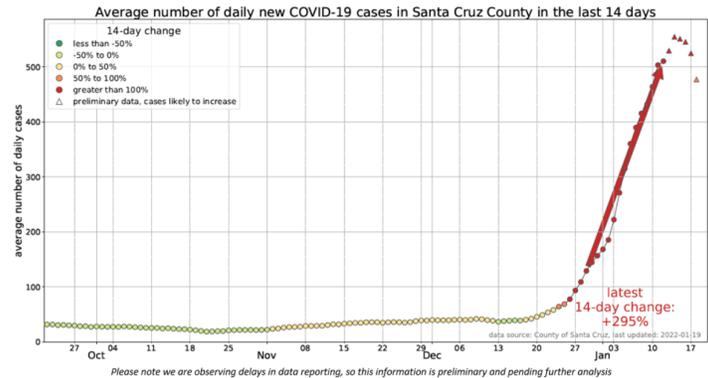
- *Get vaccinated and boosted.*
- Upgrade your mask for fit and filtration: KF94/KN95 & N95 masks are best, followed by surgical masks. Cloth masks, while better than nothing, do not offer the same level of protection.
- *Improve ventilation and air filtration.*

Testing

Testing Appointment information is available at the [Santa Cruz County COVID-19 Testing website](#). Appointments are recommended for all County locations:

- **City of Santa Cruz:** Monday-Friday 7am-7pm by appointment only at the Depot Freight building (119 Center Street).
- **Felton:** Friday-Tuesday 10am-6pm at Mountain Community Resources (6134 Highway 9).
- **Ramsay Park:** Wednesday-Sunday 7am-6:45pm; closed 11am-12pm and 4pm-5pm (1301 Main Street).
- **Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds:** Monday-Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 9am-3pm. Registration required. [Link to register 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

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) provides Fact Sheets detailing how to choose the right vaccine for you.

- [Which Vaccine is Right for Me?](#)
- [Pfizer Fact Sheet](#)
- [Moderna Fact Sheet](#)
- [Johnson & Johnson Fact Sheet](#)

Vaccine Clinics:

- **Watsonville Vaccine Center:** Thursday-Sunday 9:30am-5pm for individuals 5+, at 250 Main Street.
- **Felton Vax the Valley:** Wednesdays 1pm-7pm, 6191 HWY 9.

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**.



COVID-19 Surge Employer Town Hall

Join Santa Cruz County Public Health Officials for a virtual meeting to discuss the recent Omicron surge & how to best address employee and employer needs.

- Monday 1/24, 6pm-7pm
- Click [here](#) for Zoom link (Conference ID: 823 9533 7900), or call **720-707-2699**
- *Free and open to all employers*

Public Health Reminders



- This is going to be a hard month, but the surge 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.**