This is going to be a hard month, but the surge will end soon. It is difficult to contain this surge - but we can work together. People who are doing "everything right" may become positive. Practice compassion to your family, friends, and yourself.

www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus

COVID-19 Case Trends – Upgrade Your Masks

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 daily average number of cases is triple what we saw during the peak of last year’s surge.

- Reproductive number median estimate is hovering around 1, which indicates that transmission is slowing.
- The 14-day change graph to the right indicates a flattening trend, with a recent spike driven by the 0-19 population.

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

- Get vaccinated and boosted.
- Upgrade your masks.
- Improve ventilation and air filtration.

Mask Resources

Public Health recommends that everyone upgrade their masks (see graphic). Click here for CDPH resources on how to get the most out of masking.

- Organizations throughout the county that serve vulnerable populations and communities are beginning to receive masks for distribution.
- CA Office of Emergency Services now has a supply line of high-grade mask and hand sanitizer to supply urgent health and safety services.

Vaccinations

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) encourages COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters for those eligible. For more information:

- COVID-19 Booster Vaccines
- COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Q&A

"Vaccines are how we end this pandemic, and boosters will play a critical role moving forward." - Dr. Tomás Aragón

Ongoing Vaccine Clinics:

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

For Santa Cruz County Vaccine Resources visit: HSA COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage, or My Turn

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

Testing

Get free at-home COVID-19 tests from the federal government. Countywide COVID-19 Testing information is available at the Santa Cruz County COVID-19 Testing website.

- Optum Serve Testing Sites: Open 7-days a week across Watsonville, Felton, and City of Santa Cruz. Check the Santa Cruz County Testing Website for locations and availability.
- 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.