COVID-19 Case Trends – Masks Are Strongly Recommended

COVID-19 case rates are starting to decrease 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 14-day change graph to the right indicates a flattening and decreasing trend.
- Reproductive number median estimate is below 1, which indicates that transmission is not increasing.

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.

Masking Update
Bay Area health officers, in alignment with the State, strongly recommend continued masking as an effective tool to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Masking in indoor public settings remains the safest choice for an individual.
- Vaccinations and boosters remain the top defense against the virus.

Click here for new CDPH masking guidance.

Vaccinations
The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has created multiple fact sheets on COVID-19 boosters. Click here to access:
- COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters
- COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters Q&A

Keep your immunity strong and your loved ones safer. Masking and getting vaccinated and boosted helps us reduce the chances of spreading COVID-19 and its highly contagious Omicron variant. -CDPH

You can find COVID-19 resources and vaccine information at the Health Services Agency 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 in Watsonville (new location), Felton, and Santa Cruz. Click here to sign up for appointments.
- Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday 9am-3pm. Registration required. 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.

Public Health Reminders
- Case rates are still high, but we have passed the Omicron peak.
  - Vaccinations, masking, and individual behaviors are helping to sustain our healthcare system.
- Vaccinations and boosters remain the best defense against the virus. Masks are strongly recommended for personal protection.

www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus
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