

Santa Cruz County Public Health COVID-19 Emergency Response Executive Summary 9/17/2021



COVID-19 Case Trends – Substantial Transmission in Santa Cruz

While the COVID-19 Delta Variant continues to be active in the Santa Cruz County community and throughout the country, overall cases have begun to decrease. Outbreaks and exposures in congregate settings are still high. The below trends show the various impacts of COVID-19 within our community.

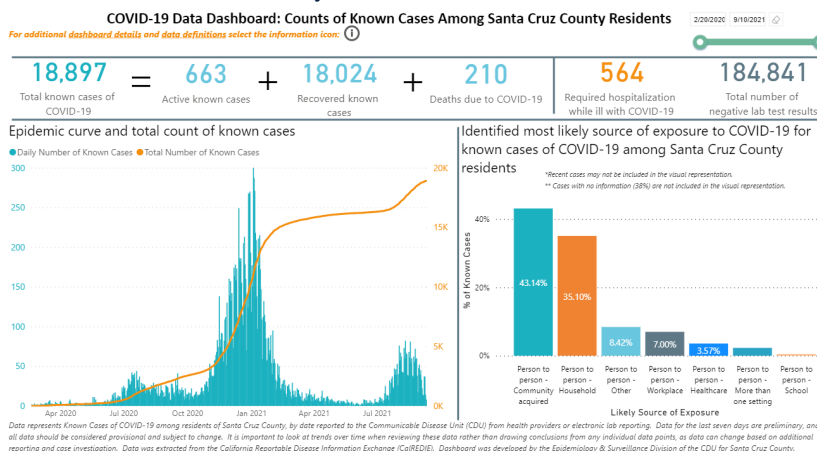
- As of 9/12/21, data shows a -34% change in average number of cases in the last 14 days, compared to 2 weeks ago when it was at a -1% change in cases.
- Overall hospital census remains high. Staffing shortages continue, impacting the entire region and state.
- The Local Demographics Dashboard shows a continued increase in cases in the 0-19 age group. This increase in cases is mostly attributed to a series of outbreaks in K-12 schools. Youth make up about 25% of our active cases; while most transmission occurs in the household or community, school exposures are at about 13% of transmission.
- A new case time slice feature has been added to our county dashboard; this shows slice by time frames to compare different periods of time of the pandemic.

Testing

Looking for COVID-19 Testing? Appointments are available at OptumServe, medical providers, and Urgent Care locations.

- On Friday, 9/10/21, a mobile testing bus was positioned at the Mountain Resource Center in Felton. Hours will be 10am-6pm Fridays-Tuesdays for the foreseeable future.
- The OptumServe locations, Santa Cruz Civic Center and Ramsay Park, have COVID-19 testing appointments available for adults and children, 7 days/week across both sites.

[HSA COVID-19 Testing Resources & Site Locations](#)



Vaccinations

The Public Health Division is planning for pending Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of COVID-19 vaccines for pediatric and boosters with local healthcare partners.

- Watsonville Vaccine Center is open Thursday-Sunday at Old City Hall in Watsonville. Appointments are available via walk-ins or appointments via My Turn. All three COVID-19 vaccines are available.
- Santa Cruz County's healthcare community is doing their part in keeping our most vulnerable populations safe! Skilled Nursing Facility vaccine rates among staff and patients are high (~90% across facilities).



Upcoming Pop-Up Clinics

- **September 24th** - Watsonville Farmer's Market | Walk-In Clinic | 2:30-6:30pm
- **September 26th** - Taking Care | Tannery Arts Center | 1-4pm

Additional clinics and clinic details can be found at the [COVID-19 Vaccine Pop-Up Calendar](#).



New! Santa Cruz County Guidance

- Youth Sports: [Recommendations on Youth Sports and Extracurricular Activities](#)
- Flu Season: [Order for Licensed Healthcare Facilities to Implement a Mandatory Influenza Prevention Program for Healthcare Workers](#)



Public Health Reminders



- **Seasonal Influenza** season is here! Now is the time to get the flu shot from your healthcare provider or local pharmacy.
- The Local Health Officer Order for wearing a face covering indoors and in crowded settings is still in effect. This helps **reduce the spread** of COVID-19 in our community.
- Take a moment to **enjoy time outside** and soak in the beautiful Santa Cruz weather!