

# Santa Cruz County Public Health COVID-19 Emergency Response Executive Summary 9/24/2021



## COVID-19 Case Trends - Importance of Vaccinations

While the COVID-19 Delta Variant continues to be active in the Santa Cruz County community and throughout the country, overall cases continue to decrease. It is important to continue to wear a face covering indoors to reduce community spread and get vaccinated if possible.

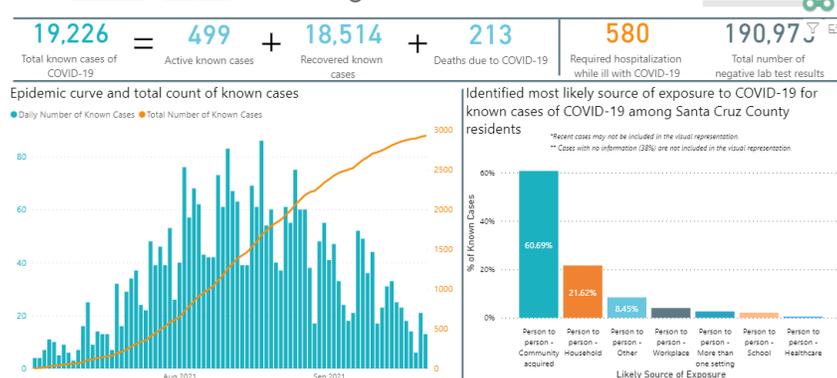
- As of 9/22/21, data shows a -37% change in average number of cases in the last 14 days, compared to 2 weeks ago when it was at a -21% change in cases.
- All Santa Cruz County resident deaths with COVID-19 as a significant contributing factor were unvaccinated individuals.
- The Local [Demographics Dashboard](#) shows that the highest case rates in age groups are among 25-34 (17%), followed by 35-44 (16%).
- Most outbreaks in our community are occurring in shelters and schools. Since 7/1/21, the most likely source of exposure is person-to-person community acquired (60.69% of known cases).
- Most recent case trends occur in North County (55%), although cases are proportional to their total population.
- Hospitalizations are stable but continue to be full, due to significant staffing shortages.

### Testing

Looking for COVID-19 Testing? Find an appointment at [OptumServe](#), [medical providers](#), and [Urgent Care locations](#).

- 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.
- County Office of Education supports COVID-19 testing for the school community. Additional information can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Data Dashboard: Counts of Known Cases Among Santa Cruz County Residents 7/1/2021 9/21/2021



### Vaccinations

On Friday (9/24), the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) made a [recommendation](#) of booster doses for Pfizer-BioNTech 6 months after completion of primary series for the following populations:

- Individuals 65+ or residents in Long Term Care Facilities and individuals 50-64 with underlying medical conditions **should** receive a booster.
- Individuals 18-49 with underlying medical conditions and individuals who are at occupational or institutional risk of COVID-19 exposure or transmission **may** receive a booster.

On 9/24/21, Friday afternoon, the Western States Scientific Review Workgroup and CDPH [provided recommendations](#) for use that align with the CDC, allowing approval for use in California.

### Upcoming Vaccine Opportunities



- **September 30th - October 3rd** - Watsonville Vaccine Center | 9a-1p (Thursday/Saturday) and 2p-6p (Friday/Sunday) | Open for walk-ins!
- **October 1st** - Watsonville Farmer's Market | 2:30-6:30p

Visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine Resource](#) webpage or [My Turn](#) for vaccination opportunities and appointments.



### COVID-19 Exposure Guidelines

What should you do if you've been exposed to COVID-19?

#### Unvaccinated

- Have symptoms:
  - Get tested & self-isolate
- No symptoms:
  - Get tested - if positive, isolate
  - Self-quarantine per [CDPH guidelines](#)

#### Vaccinated

- Have symptoms:
  - Get tested & self-isolate
- No symptoms:
  - Get tested - if positive, isolate
  - Self-monitor for 14 days following last exposure (if symptoms develop, isolate)

It's important to review the full [CDPH Exposure Guidance](#) and refer to your primary care provider for additional guidance.



### Public Health Reminders

- Vaccines are safe and effective. Reminder to complete your vaccine series if you are eligible.
- If you are symptomatic, please get tested and stay home. It is crucial to reducing the spread and to **protecting loved ones**.
- **Seasonal Influenza** season is here. Now is the time to get the flu shot from your healthcare provider or local pharmacy.
- Take a moment to **enjoy time outside** and soak in the beautiful Santa Cruz weather. Happy Autumn!