

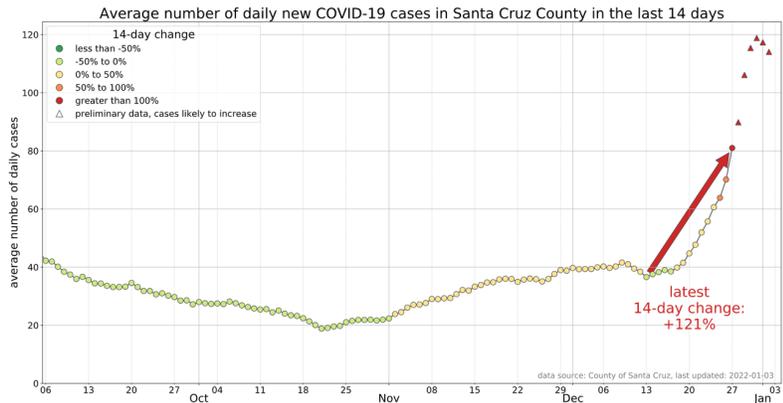
Santa Cruz County Public Health COVID-19 Emergency Response Executive Summary 1/7/2022



COVID-19 Case Trends – Omicron Variant

COVID-19 case rates continue to increase in Santa Cruz County. To reduce spread of COVID-19, it is now recommended that all individuals 5+ receive the COVID-19 vaccine and booster, and are required to wear a mask in indoor settings.

- As of 1/7/22, data shows a +121% change in average number of cases in the last 14 days, compared to two weeks ago when it was at a +4% change.
- Local hospitals are overwhelmed due to staffing shortages and increase in cases. COVID-19 hospitalizations, ICU utilization, and daily death rate are projected to increase over the next few weeks.
- The [Local Demographics Dashboard](#) shows that among active cases, the most number of cases are in the 25–34 age range (22.23%), followed by the 35–44 age range (14.72%).
- Among our active cases, most continue to be community acquired infections (80%) and exposed in their household (20%).



Testing

Testing Appointment Information is available at the [Santa Cruz County COVID-19 Testing Website](#). The Mobile Testing Bus has updated their schedule:

- **Santa Cruz City:** Open Monday-Friday from 7am-7pm by appointment only at the Depot Freight building (119 Center Street).
- **Felton:** Located at Mountain Community Resources (6134 Highway 9). Open Friday-Tuesday from 10am-6pm.
- **Ramsay Park:** Open Wednesday-Sunday from 7am-6:45pm; closed 11am-12pm and 4pm-5pm.

Appointments for all locations are preferred, [click here for an appointment](#).

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

On 1/6/2022, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) approved the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation of:

- Expanded eligibility of Pfizer-BioNtech Boosters for individuals 12-15;
- Booster doses for Pfizer now provided at a 5-month interval;
- and Expanded eligibility of Pfizer-BioNtech additional doses for immunocompromised individuals 5-11.

Details on new guidance [Boosters](#) and [Additional Doses](#) available here.

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**.



New State and Federal COVID-19 Guidance

- [Updated Isolation/Quarantine Guidance](#)
- [Extended State Indoor Masking Order](#)
- [CDPH Travel Advisory](#)
- [CalOSHA Standards to Align with CDPH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance](#)

COVID-19 Booster Requirements:

- [Healthcare Workers](#)
- [Adult Care Facilities/Direct Care Workers](#)
- [Correctional Facilities/Detention Centers Healthcare Workers](#)



Public Health Reminders

- During the Omicron Surge, it's helpful to remember when to call your Doctor vs. when should you call 911 or go to the Hospital.
 - **Stay home or call your doctor** if you are experiencing mild or moderate symptoms, such as cough, runny nose, sore throat, or body aches. Unnecessary ER visits put a large strain on our healthcare system and frontline workers.
- The Omicron surge is temporary; wearing a good mask, getting vaccinated, and staying home when sick will support our community during this challenging time.