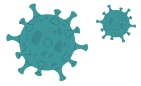# Santa Cruz County Public Health COVID-19 Emergency Response Executive Summary 2/18/2022

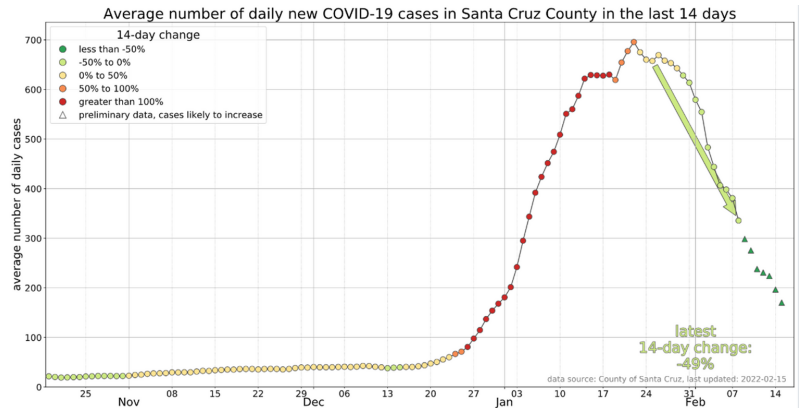## COVID-19 Case Trends – Masks Are Strongly Recommended

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.*

Average number of daily new COVID-19 cases in Santa Cruz County in the last 14 days

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 the new CDPH masking guidance.

The County's Health Service Agency has created a variety of flyers to promote mask use in businesses. Click here for a full list of face covering signs available for business use.

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.