



Public Health Division

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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County COVID-19 Cases Increasing due to Delta Variant

Santa Cruz County, CA – The Delta variant has dramatically changed the impact of COVID-19 in Santa Cruz County. Like the rest of California and the nation, the County is experiencing increased disease transmission, case rates and hospitalizations. Unvaccinated people are suffering from severe and life-threatening illness.

“The most important thing people can do to stop this pandemic and the spread of the Delta variant is to get vaccinated,” said Dr. Gail Newel, County Health Officer. “The highest number of cases with the most severe outcomes are happening in places with low vaccination rates.”

Local data is showing that our case rate has more than doubled in the last two weeks. Modeling projections are predicting this trend to continue as well as an increase in COVID hospitalizations. In addition, the rate at which COVID is spreading is much faster than we’ve seen before, as indicated by the effective reproductive number. More details can be found in the modeling projections on the [Santa Cruz County data dashboard](#).

Although some cases of vaccinated people getting the Delta variant have been reported, these breakthrough infections tend to be mild. All three COVID-19 vaccines effectively prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death. Vaccines are free, safe, and widely available to everyone 12 and older, regardless of residency status.

With the Delta variant circulating in our community, it’s important that everyone do their part to stop the spread. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending that everyone, including vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in most indoor settings as well as crowded outdoor settings. Stay home if you feel sick at all. Get [tested](#) even if you have mild upper respiratory symptoms such as sniffles or sneezing. If positive, [isolate](#). If exposed to anyone with known or suspected COVID19, [quarantine](#). Most importantly, get vaccinated if you haven’t done so already. Walk-in vaccination clinics can be found at www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvaccine or at myturn.ca.gov. If you have been vaccinated, tell family members and friends who haven’t that now is the time.

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