

PLACER COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 2, 2021

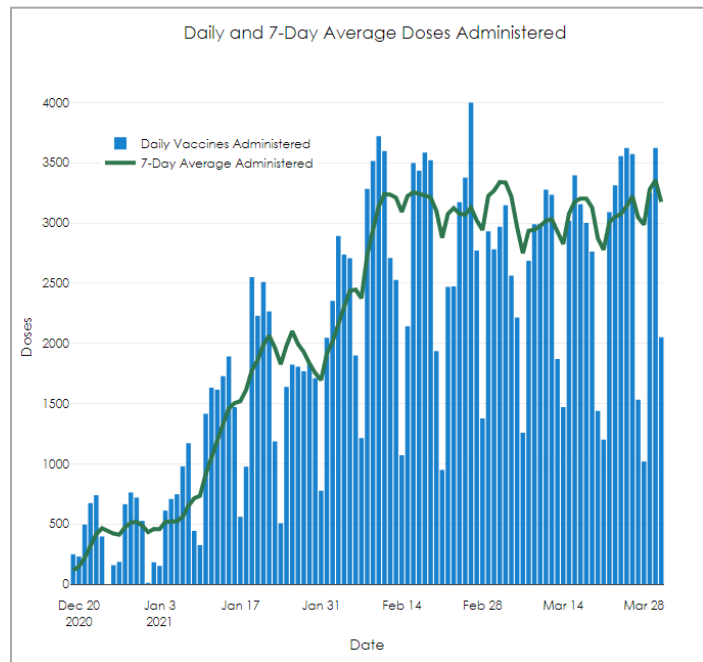
Placer County Vaccination Progress

Placer County received its first allocation of COVID-19 vaccine in Dec. 2020. As of March 31, 203,924 doses have been administered to Placer County residents, including 79,652 second or complete (i.e. single dose) doses (view [dashboard](#)). Public Health receives vaccine allocations on a weekly basis and uses some doses at its own clinic while reallocating others to health care partners including hospitals, clinics and pharmacies.

The vaccine data presented here is dynamic and subject to change.

Allocations	Doses
Doses Allocated to Public Health as of 3/28	124230
Doses Retained by Public Health	61444
Doses Transferred to Other Providers	62786

Recent Public Health Allocations at a Glance	
Week	Glance
3/1-3/7	11180
3/8-3/14	11780
3/15-3/21	11150
3/22-3/28	11750
3/29-4/4	8980**



*Administration data sourced from Snowflake/CAIR; allocation data from Placer County Public Health.

** As of this week, Blue Shield is now allocating to some Placer County providers directly, rather than these doses going through Public Health. An additional 2500 were allocated to providers in the Placer County network, beyond what Public Health received.

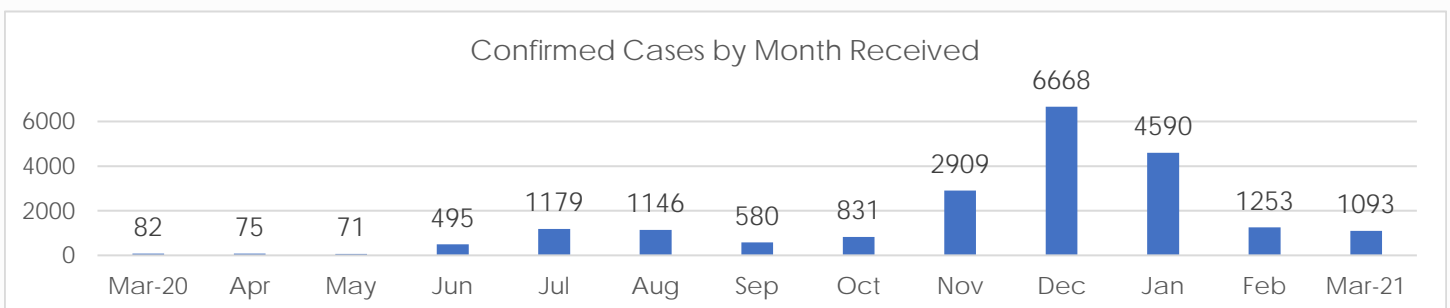
Placer County COVID-19 Cases at a Glance

The first case of COVID-19, the viral infection caused by SARS-CoV-2, was identified in Placer County on March 1, 2020. Since then, cases have been reported throughout the county.

Our team of case investigators strive to interview those who have tested positive and their close contacts as soon as reported, and prioritized based on level of community transmission. These teams provide guidance and offer support to those who need to isolate and quarantine to help keep their families and communities safe.

What's happening now in Placer County?

Cases in Placer County have slowed significantly.



Placer County COVID-positive residents in local hospitals (on 3/31): 11 (3 in intensive care).

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There were 20,972 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Placer County as of 3/31. Cases have slowed in March compared to recent months. Data remain dynamic as cases are transferred to and from other jurisdictions based on residency and as cases previously reported in other counties are assigned to the original jurisdiction.

An individual who tests positive on multiple occasions is only counted as a single case. Public Health reports cases by episode date, which is the earliest of several dates (illness onset date, specimen collection date, date of death or date reported). As information is received by Public Health, episode dates will be updated and case counts will be adjusted to best approximate the date of illness onset. Data are dynamic and will change as cases are received, updated, and transferred.

[View cumulative and new cases by episode date.](#)

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) monitors cases using a 7-day daily case rate, calculated as the average number of COVID-19 cases per day by episode date reported over a 7-day period, divided by the population of Placer County. This number is then multiplied by 100,000. The figure is lagged by 7 days to allow for receipt and transfer of additional results. [View a chart](#) of the 7-day average daily case rate.

Deaths

As of March 31st, Placer County has received reports of 275 COVID-related* deaths.

- 148 (54%) were residents of long-term care facilities.
- 41% were under the age of 80; 11% were under the age of 65.
- At least 89% of those who died had at least one confirmed underlying health condition. (29 deaths are pending for this data).

*COVID-related deaths have COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 listed as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death on the death certificate. Public Health reporting is consistent with the case definition set forth by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and guidance issued by CDPH.

Age Range	Number of Deaths	Cumulative %
18-44	1	0%
45-49	3	1%
50-54	5	3%
55-59	10	7%
60-64	11	11%
65-69	16	17%
70-74	31	28%
75-79	35	41%
80-84	50	59%
85-89	51	77%
90-94	37	91%
95+	25	100%
Total	275	--

COVID Deaths by Month	Number of Deaths
March 2020	2
April	6
May	1
June	2
July	6
August	17
September	20
October	7
November	26
December	89
January	68
February	28
March 2021	3
Total	275

Some deaths may not have yet been processed.

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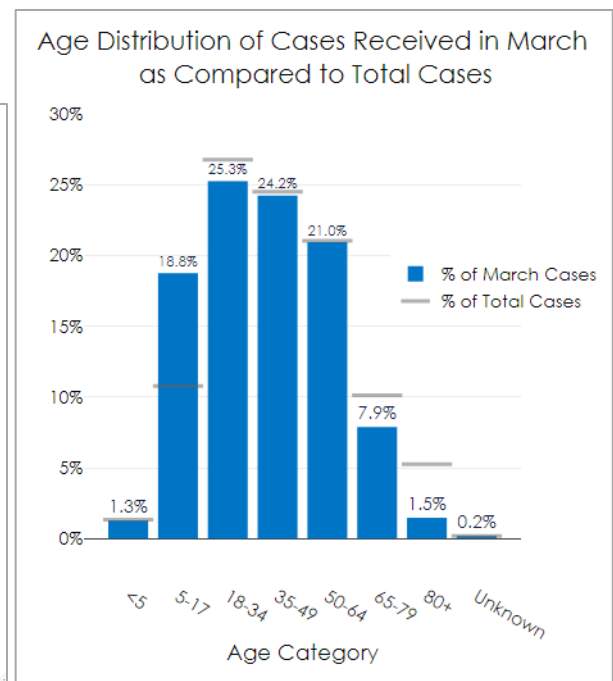
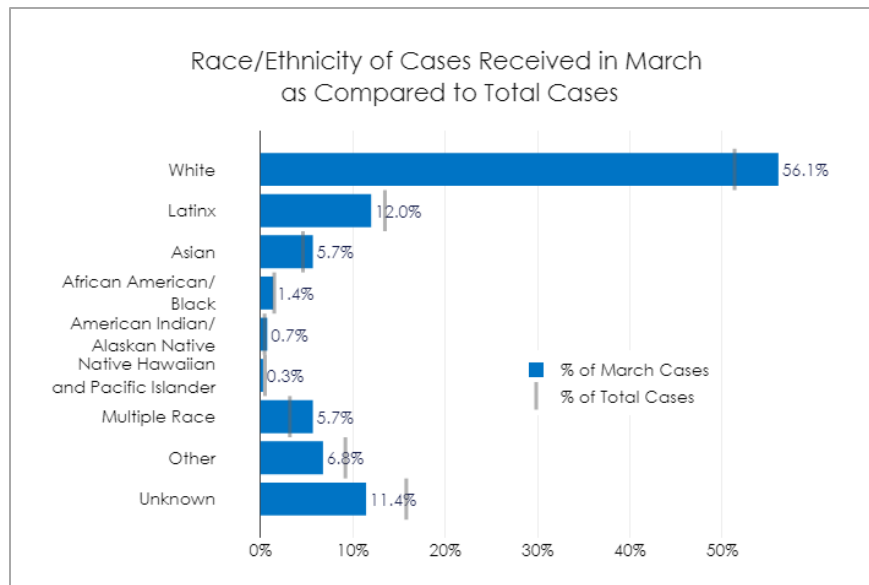
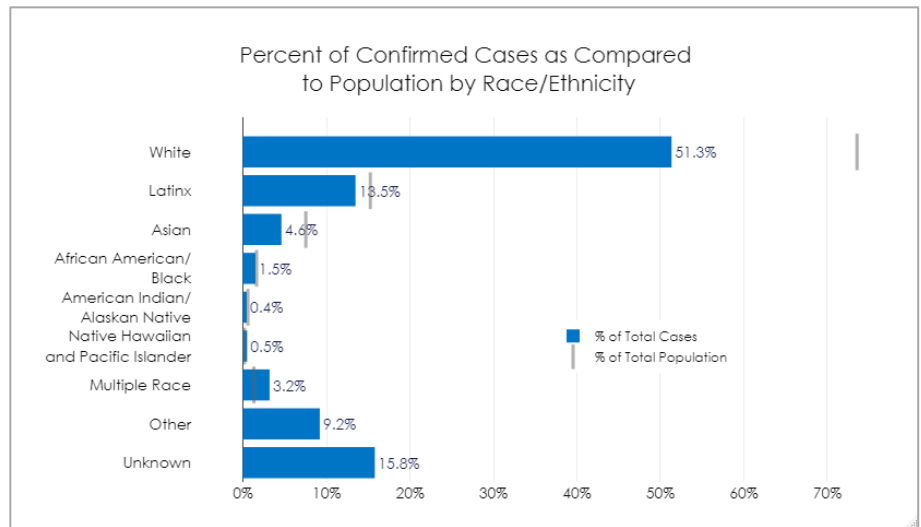
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Descriptive Statistics

About one-fifth of race/ethnicity data remains unknown, although systematic data collection has improved. Placer County lacks race/ethnicity data for 15.8% of cases compared to 21% [statewide](#). Race/ethnicity data is sometimes provided by labs, but most often collected during the case interview. Some cases cannot be reached for interview and some decline to share this information.

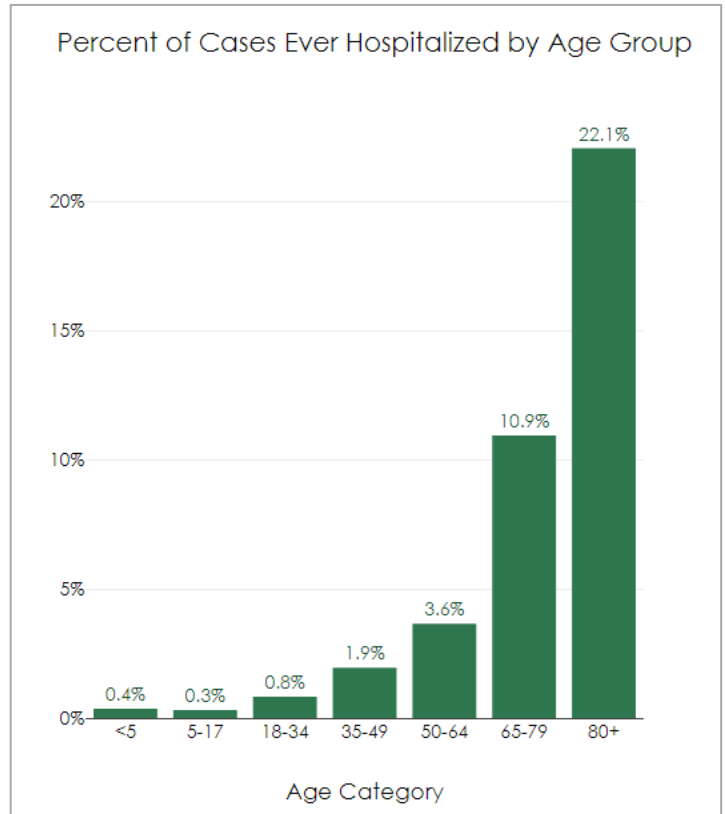
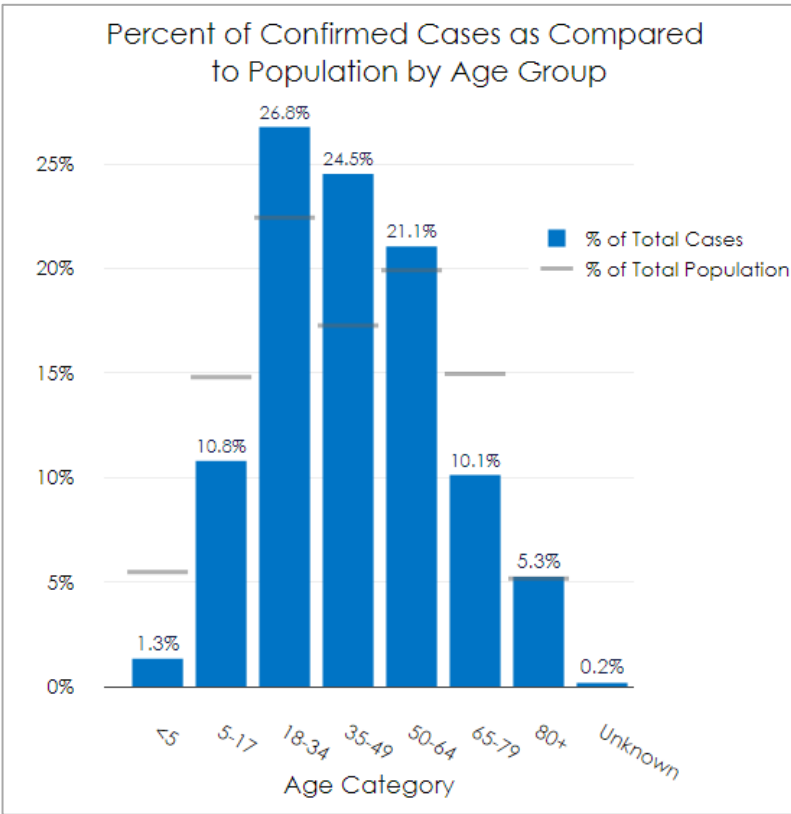
All hospitalization data below, including demographic breakdown, is an undercount of cases ever hospitalized. This data is dependent upon case interviews, which may happen prior to hospitalization, or hospital notification to Public Health.

Race/Ethnicity Distribution Among Confirmed Cases		
	March Cases	Total Cases
White	613	10767
Latinx	131	2826
Asian	62	965
African American/Black	15	312
American Indian/Alaska Native	8	93
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	3	103
Multiple Race	62	667
Other Race	74	1928
Unknown	125	3311
Total Cases	1093	20972

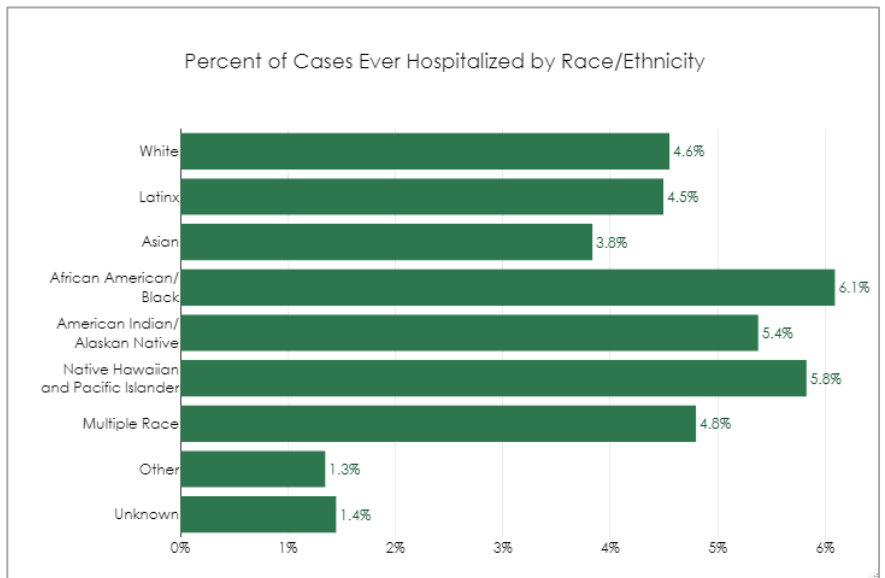


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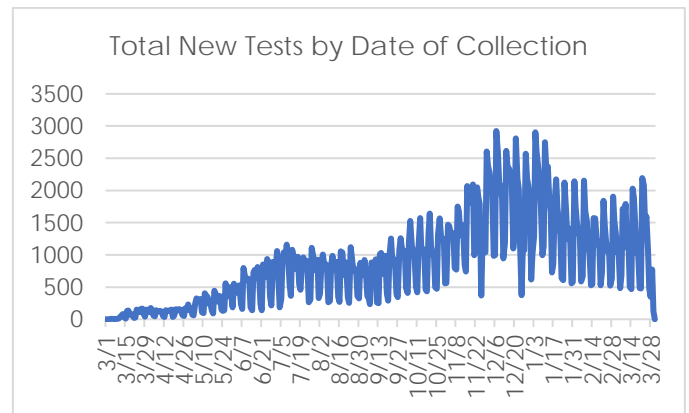
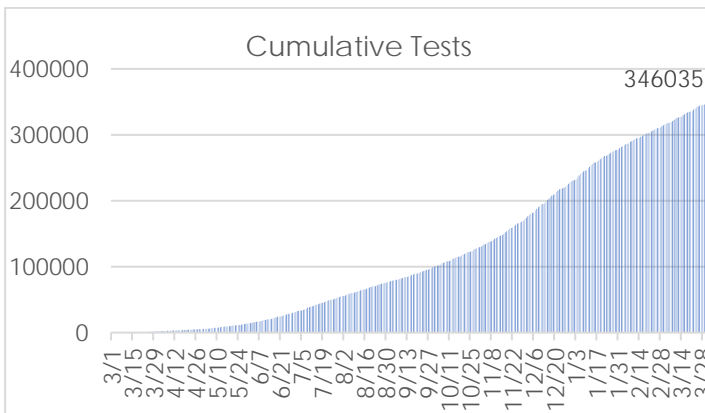


Race/Ethnicity Distribution and Hospitalization Among Confirmed Cases		
	Hospitalized Cases	Total Cases
White	490	10767
Latinx	127	2826
Asian	37	965
African American/Black	19	312
American Indian/Alaska Native	5	93
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	6	103
Multiple Race	32	667
Other Race	26	1928
Unknown	48	3311
Total Cases	790	20972



Testing

As of March 31st, Placer County Public Health has received 346,035 total test results to detect COVID-19 infection. The 7-day average testing positivity rate is 2.3%. Reported tests only include molecular tests that detect viral RNA. They do not include rapid antigen tests or serology (antibody) tests. An individual who tests positive on multiple occasions is only counted as a single case. Testing positivity rate is the number of new positive tests in the last 7 days / total tests reported in the last 7 days. The 7-day average testing positivity rate is variable for several days as new test results are reported. The figures for daily tests will increase as new results are received.



View a graph of [7-day average daily tests and 7-day average testing positivity rate.](#)

Congregate Settings

During the month of March 2021, there were only 3 congregate living facilities (e.g., skilled nursing, long-term care, memory care, etc.) with 31 cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19 (6 active cases in the month of March), which includes total case counts for both staff and residents.

During the past three months, 11,270 doses of vaccine have been administered by CVS and Walgreens to staff and residents at congregate care facilities in Placer County, including 6,205 first doses and 5,065 second doses of vaccine.

[Click here](#) for the latest information about correctional facility cases.

Case Investigation Findings: March 1-31

Potential Exposure Settings*		
	Cases	%
Total Cases received by Public Health March 1-31	1,093	100%
Personal contact attempted for interview (includes non-response). <i>A virtual survey was sent to all case/contacts if a phone number was provided.</i>	917	84%
Cases interviewed (additional responses provided by virtual survey). <i>Public Health strives to interview as many cases as possible. Cases are prioritized for an interview based on how many days have elapsed since the time of their test date and result date, along with risk factors, including age and vulnerable settings.</i>	606	55%
Those with at least one potential exposure setting among those with completed interview/survey:		
	Count	
Reported close contact to a confirmed case*	313	
Household member	195	
Work-related <i>(Highest # of close contacts by industry: Business support services; Other misc. manufacturing)</i>	27	
School-related	29	
Healthcare setting (as employee or patient)	5	
Other community contact	53	
Other individual or not specified	4	
	Count	
Reported attending a large gathering*	98	
Friend or family	25	
School-related	46	
Religious	10	
Other gathering	17	

*Potential exposure settings are defined as indoor or outdoor locations in which cases came within 6 feet of a case for at least 15 minutes during the 2-14 days prior to symptom onset or test collection date for asymptomatic cases. Potential exposure settings are not confirmed sources of infection, and do not reflect all reported potential exposure settings. Persons may have visited more than one location. Responses are based on information volunteered on interview.

FAQs

Why are there still so many deaths being reported despite the decreases in cases and hospitalizations?

Public Health has been processing deaths identified from death certificates that in many cases occurred during the winter surge. When mapped by date of death (rather than report date), as shown on page 2, it is clear there has been a marked decrease in deaths in the last month. Identifying and reporting deaths via death certificate data can be a lengthy process, as it takes time for death certificates to work their way through the system and become available to Public Health for review. Additionally, the process of reviewing death certificates to report COVID deaths takes time, as Public Health thoroughly reviews each death certificate and associated case record to ensure death data is captured and reported accurately and deaths are attributed to the appropriate jurisdiction. While data is subject to change as new information is gathered, Public Health has now processed the bulk of death certificates from the surge period.

When could Placer County move to the state's orange tier?

At the time of the state's assessment this week, the county's case rate was at 6 which is a decline from previous weeks. Currently, the case rate range for the red tier is 4-10. However, once the state reaches 4 million vaccines in the lowest [Healthy Places Index quartile](#), it will adjust the red tier threshold to 6 (6-10 range), with the orange tier being the 2-5.9 range. As of March 31, that quartile is at about 3.6 million. Ideally, by the time the state hits that trigger, Placer County would have been able to maintain and slightly improve its case rate to be able to qualify, but this is dependent on continued efforts to reduce disease spread.

How many people will become eligible for the vaccine in the coming weeks?

There are about 80,000 people between 50-64 in Placer; [more than 35%](#) of those have already received at least one dose through other eligibility criteria (employment or health condition) as of March 31. As of March 31, nearly 75% of people 65 and older have received at least one dose. If the 50-64 age group matches that rate, added demand could be around 30-36,000 depending on how uptake pans out.

There are about 159,000 people in the 18-49 age category and nearly 15% of those have already received at least one dose as of March 31.

When will Placer County begin using MyTurn and what is the status of the Third Party Administrator or TPA (Blue Shield)?

Placer County has begun testing MyTurn. The state is making planned improvements to the system's functionality. Public Health would like to see these features implemented before the system becomes fully operational in the county, which is likely to be sometime in the next month.

Placer County has [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Government Operations Agency (CalGovOps) similar to many other counties, which clarifies the county's role in vaccine distribution and allows the county to continue receiving vaccine allocations without contracting with the TPA. Many providers, such as Safeway, who had been receiving allocations from the county are now contracted with the TPA and receiving their allocations directly from Blue Shield.

Monitoring/Thresholds

Every county in California is assigned to a tier under the state’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy reopening framework based on its testing positivity and adjusted case rate. After the initial placement process, counties must remain in a tier for at least 3 weeks before moving forward. Data is reviewed weekly and tiers are updated on Tuesdays. To move forward, a county must meet the next tier’s criteria for 2 consecutive weeks. If one or both of a county’s metrics land in a more restrictive tier for 2 weeks in a row, a county must move backward to the more restrictive tier. The [Health Equity Metric](#) can also affect movement.

State Monitoring Indicators for Placer County		
State Indicators	3/23 Tier Assessment	3/30 Tier Assessment
Adjusted case rate per 100,000 (7-day average, 7-day lag)	8.0	6.0
Testing positivity rate (7-day average, 7-day lag)	3	2.7
Health Equity Quartile test positivity (7-day average, 7-day lag)	4.0	4.5
Current overall tier	Red	

[State Tier Legend:](#)

Adjusted case rate per 100,000 (7-day average, 7-day lag)	>10	4-10	1-3.9	<1
Testing positivity rate (7-day average, 7-day lag)	>8%	5-8%	2-4.9%	<2%

Preventing Infection

Personal precautions go a long way to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- Remember: The safest gathering is a virtual gathering. The next safest gathering is a small, outdoor, distanced gathering with everybody wearing masks; washing/sanitizing their hands; and not sharing food, utensils or other items.
- Anyone who is feeling ill should stay home.
- Vulnerable (high-risk) individuals are encouraged to stay at home. This includes those over age 65 or with serious medical conditions.
- Wear a face covering in public. [Read some Face Covering FAQs here.](#)
- When in public, maximize physical distance from others (at least 6 feet).
- Maintain good hygiene practices by washing hands, using hand sanitizer, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Find [Guidance for Confirmed Cases \(English\)](#) ([Spanish](#)) and [Guidance for Contacts \(English\)](#) ([Spanish](#)).