



**Public Health Department  
Mendocino County**

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*



H. Andrew Coren, MD  
Public Health Officer

Anne C. Molgaard, JD  
Transition Director

DATE: 9-13-2021  
TO: Board of Supervisors  
FROM: H. Andrew Coren, MD, Health Officer  
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

Mendocino County's **testing positivity** rate **10%**. **With testing rates up to 400/100,000/day**.  
New **daily cases** average **39.25/day/100,000**. There are currently **25 people in Mendocino hospitals**. 5 are from out-of-County. 5 additional Mendocino residents are in out-of-county hospitals. We have 7 COVID cases plus 8 more in our County Intensive Care Units, leaving only **1 staffed ICU bed available today**.  
**70 people have passed away, 10% more in the last 2 weeks**.  
**Total COVID cases is now 6,469**; of these **2,584** are Hispanic.

We have **Outbreaks** now in our Jail, 2 Skilled Nursing Homes, a Homeless shelter, and Round Valley. The State is assisting with the latter outbreak and setting up an outpatient monoclonal antibody administration center, while the County is renting a large tent for it as well as supporting the testing, shelter and vaccination efforts. All the outbreaks seem to be coming under control at this time.

**Vaccines: 3<sup>rd</sup> doses** for the **immune compromised** is ongoing. **Boosters (3<sup>rd</sup> dose after completed series)** is not yet authorized and administering them would be a breach of contract we have for receiving the vaccines, threatening our contract with the state. The vaccines remain extremely effective against severe disease, hospitalization and death. We are planning for vaccines Booster Doses when approved and for children under 12 years old, which we hope, will be approved within the next 1 month.

As of September 13, 2021, 104,122 total doses have been administered to 78.1% of those over 12 years: 67.6% are fully vaccinated, which exceeds the state average. From an Equity perspective, our coverage of our least resourced areas (quartile 1) is better than the state. Hispanic vaccination rates are increasing significantly and the disparity between the Hispanic and non-Hispanic white population is decreasing. The uptake in all age groups is increasing. However, those between 18-49 years old are going slowly. A recent report from our Clinics survey points to safety and accessibility as reasons for delay in that age group. We will pursue that further with more community education and a better understanding of barriers to access. We have started regular vaccine events at the Fairgrounds in Ukiah and at Public Health in Willits and Ft Bragg. We will be at the Apple fair for vaccination and in Round Valley and other outbreak situations. We are supporting the schools and our clinics for Children's vaccinations.

In summary, our 4<sup>th</sup> COVID surge may be starting to taper off. However, we have a holiday-filled fall that could usher in a greater surge. Our hospitals are stretched and the healthcare workers are stressed out. Case and hospitalization rates may have levelled off BUT increased deaths (as expected are still occurring) and the fall months could spell a surge like last winter, or worse. We are working on Vaccine mobilizations now for those who have held back, for children and those who may need boosters.