



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Bekkie Emery, DOC Manager

H. Andrew Coren, MD, County Health Officer



DATE: 8-17- 2021
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: H. Andrew Coren, MD, Health Officer
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

The current, 4th Covid Surge with the DELTA Variant appears to be the worst surge we've faced.

Mendocino County's testing positivity rate 7.7%

New cases average 37.5/day/100,000 which is 6 times higher than 1 month ago.

There are currently 24 people in Mendocino hospitals. Two are from Out of county. 3 additional Mendocino residents are in out of county hospitals. We have 5 in our County Intensive Care Units.

55 people have passed away, 5 more in the last month, after many weeks with no deaths.

Total, known, who have fallen ill with Covid is now 5267 or 6% of our population. Of these 2299 are Hispanic.

We have had few small outbreaks that were well controlled. Our Contact Investigation/Contact Tracing team has been very stressed since the state pulled back its volunteers before this surge took effect. We are now contracting for more, and recalling other County workers to help.

Demand for Testing is increasing and we are adding more Optum Serve testing with another Travel Team.

Demand for Vaccinations increasing and we are preparing for the schools opening with additional clinics while encouraging cooperation between the schools and their nearby clinics. This will also serve our community as the vaccines for children younger than 12 years old are expected to be approved in the next month. Clinics, hospitals and pharmacies are also increasing their vaccine efforts.

Since immunity has been found to be significantly less in some groups, leading to more hospitalization and death, boosters are now approved as a dose of either of the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna). These are recommended for moderately and severely immune-compromised people, estimated to be 3% of the population. These include people with organ transplants, solid and blood based cancers, immune deficiency diseases, renal dialysis patients and people taking immune suppressing medications. This is a clinical judgement so we are asking those who want it to get the vaccine or a note from their providers.

As of August 9, 2021 97,401 total doses = 72% of those over 12 years old have been at least partly vaccinated and 62.1% are fully vaccinated with 4000 doses given in last 2 weeks. From an Equity perspective we are continuing to serve our least resourced areas. Hispanic vaccination rates are increasing significantly. All age groups are increasing their uptake over the summer EXCEPT the 65 years and above.

In Summary, this 4th Covid surge is continuing and may be worse than the prior surges.

Our hospitals are especially stressed with staffing shortages. We are having meetings with Adventist Health regularly.

Judson Howe, CEO of Adventist Health will be presenting.

