



Coronavirus Updates

Pandemic sweeping nation, world

Eric J. Kos

While Alameda remains sheltered in place for another month, a resident wrote in concerned for everyone's safety.

"I was shocked to see so many people at Alameda's beaches on Saturday and Sunday," wrote Diana Cababin. "There were



more people than usual wandering around the South Shore and Nob Hill shopping centers, which attract many people from out of Alameda. Many people didn't have face masks!"

Cababin has a legitimate concern. Gov. Gavin Newsom shut Orange County beaches completely in response to the large gatherings of people there on recent weekends. Let's be careful to not let that happen here. I, for one, enjoy walking to Alameda Beach.

Some Restrictions Eased

The Health Officer of Alameda County has extended the order through Sunday, May 31, with some easing of the restrictions. Essential and minimum business operations, as defined in the order, may continue. Non-essential business such as restaurants, bars and gyms and non-essential activities involving public or private gatherings are still prohibited. Non-essential travel is still prohibited.



The updated order outlines provisions for business and activities that may resume as long as physical distancing and industry-specific requirements are followed. All businesses operating in the county must update or create a Social Distancing Protocol to reflect the new requirements.

Everyone should continue to stay and work from home as much as possible; and wear a face covering when outside their homes when unable to social distance from others.

Note that where differences between the local Health Officer's Order and the State's Order exist, the more restrictive order prevails. Find more information at www.acphd.org.

Slow Streets in effect

Alameda is joining cities across the Bay Area and country by implementing Slow Streets Alameda — a temporary closure of select streets to provide more space for physical distancing and physical activity for the duration of the shelter-in-place order. Street changes have been implemented through a temporary pilot program that started April 30. The closures affect low-volume street segments to minimize traffic disruption, totaling 1.2 miles in length.



- Pacific Avenue from Grand Street to Oak Street
- Versailles Avenue from Central Avenue to Fernside Boulevard

See www.slowstreetsalameda.org for more information.

Electric rates won't go up

At its meeting on April 27, the Public Utilities Board (PUB) unanimously decided not to increase electric rates for all Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) customers. The board voted to maintain the existing rates for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1.

Due to the utility's strong financial outlook, PUB decided not to raise electric rates during a time when AMP customers are experiencing the economic impacts of COVID-19. AMP had earlier expected to propose a rate increase of up to 2 percent. Increased costs for the utility will be paid out of AMP's existing reserves.

Customers who are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 are urged to contact AMP's customer service team at (510) 748-3900 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Visit www.alameda.mp.com to learn about AMP's financial-assistance programs.

Print shop offers free fun

Joe Dalipe at Island Print Express is again doing what he always does — supporting Alamedans with timely and thoughtful giveaways.

The shop has coloring sheets for kids, posters for people's windows if they don't have teddy bears and posters for business owners — all free. (See photo below.)

The items are digital files formatted to print on a home printer. Links are available on the Island Print Express mailing list. Sign up by writing to devilaqua@gmail.com.

Poetic submissions

The Alameda Sun received these two poems from Alameda Poet Laureate Cathy Dana.

Cosmic Distance

Social distance?
That's no obstacle to love.
Think of cosmic distance...
Even in dark of night — without question — sun shines on moon.
Even in dark of night — without question — moon shines on Earth.
Light given freely.
Social distance?
That's no obstacle to love.
Who are you shining your light on?

Going the Distance

Isn't the sun 93 million miles (8 light-minutes) away, yet still it warms the Earth and makes life possible?

Isn't Alpha Centauri, our next closest star, 8 light-years away, yet still we see its light?

Aren't there stars millions of light-years away, yet still we see them shine?

6 feet, my dears, is nothing.

P.S. A light-year is 5 trillion, 879 billion miles. 5,879,000,000,000 miles.

What is up with the Sun?

Well sunlight may travel 5 trillion miles, but the Alameda Sun has been changing how it gets around the few square miles of Alameda. Subscribers and advertisers will now be receiving their editions in the mail via the U.S. Postal Service.

Papers may arrive in the mail as late as Saturday. Please be patient as we continue to streamline our delivery model.

Free copies are still available in locations around town. The Sun has finances to continue publication through summer, but its future beyond that is in no way guaranteed.

Top to bottom: Lisa and Robert Ferguson's heart sculpture on the south shore; sleepy Port of Oakland by Eric J. Kos; Island Print Express offers free print resources for the community; Slow Streets by Maurice Ramirez

Mayor's Latest News

Warding off May spike is critical

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

"Thanks to our collective sacrifices, we've saved thousands of lives," said Colleen Chawla, director of Alameda County Health Care Services Agency that oversees the county's COVID-19 response. Chawla expressed gratitude to Alameda County residents for their "strong compliance" with the shelter-in-place (SIP) order that has helped to flatten the curve of new COVID-19 cases and avoid overwhelming area hospitals.

Last week Bay Area county public health officers issued a new SIP order that allows certain activities to resume, as long as physical distancing and industry-specific requirements are followed. These activities include, but are not limited to, construction projects, real-estate transactions, outdoor businesses, such as nurseries and landscaping, and use of certain outdoor facilities, like skate parks and athletic fields. However, parks and playgrounds, as well as dog parks,

based on CDC guidelines, are not allowed to re-open. Activities that don't allow physical distancing, such as soccer, basketball and football, are also still not allowed. The new SIP order is scheduled to end on May 31, but may be modified sooner, as more data becomes known. For more information, please visit acphd.org.

However, Chawla warned that the month of May "will be critical to warding off spikes" in the rate of new cases. Based on predictive modeling and despite current relatively flat hospitalization rates, the county is planning for a surge of COVID-19 cases in late summer. Alameda County Public Health Officer Dr. Erica Pan also expressed concern about the serious impacts of COVID-19, including organ damage, and the incidence of strokes in young people.

On a hopeful note, Pan described five key indicators that will help Bay Area public health officers know when and whether to modify existing SIP restric-

City staff are working with the county to set up a test site in Alameda starting in late May or early June.

tions. They are: 1) whether the total number of cases in the community is flat or decreasing; 2) whether the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 is flat or decreasing; 3) whether there is an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE's) for all health-care workers; 4) whether testing needs are being met, especially for vulnerable populations or those in high-risk settings or occupations; and 5) whether there is the capacity to investigate all COVID-19 cases; trace all contacts; isolate those who test positive; and quarantine people who may have been exposed.

Alameda is doing its part to assist in these efforts. City staff are

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Effort to Feed Medical Staff Grows in Alameda

Sun Staff Reports

In early April, Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) launched its "Feed Alameda's Frontline" campaign to support both Alameda restaurants and Alameda's frontline staff who are responding to the impacts of COVID-19. When CASA approached Alameda firefighters to see if they would like to receive donated restaurant meals, they insisted on becoming donors instead.

"We really want to acknowledge the medical staff who are putting their lives on the line to care for their patients and protect us all from this global pandemic," said Mike DeWindt of Alameda Firefighters Association Local 689.

While the COVID-19 numbers currently remain manageable, these individuals ensure the community stays as healthy as possible and receives the best possible treatment and testing options.

"We are overwhelmed by the support of this campaign," said Louise Nakada, executive director of the Alameda Hospital Foundation. "Our healthcare



Courtesy photo

Alameda firefighters volunteered to deliver fresh meals from local restaurants to medical workers at Alameda Hospital April 29.

workers are beyond grateful for the generosity coming from our Alameda firefighters and local community. In just a few weeks we have received more than 200 meals. What a win-win if this also helps to keep Alameda's wonderful restaurants going strong."

More openings are available through mid-May. Donors can sign-up to deliver 10 or 20 meals for lunch or dinner or donate funds in any amount to support the effort. To sign-up, donate or learn more, go to www.casa-alameda.org/covid-19-community-resilience.

Alameda Case Increase Continues

Ekene Ikeme

On Monday, May 4, the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) released an update of the county's confirmed COVID-19 cases on its website dashboard. Alameda County's COVID-19 cases have increased steadily since the Alameda Sun published ACPHD's April 20 coronavirus statistics.

Alameda County now has 1,809 confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to ACPHD. New cases increased by 618 in the two weeks since April 20. The rate of new cases in Alameda County has stayed on pace since the Sun's last update. Between April 17 and 20, Alameda County coronavirus cases increased by 130 or 43 per day. The 618 new cases between April 20 and May 4, represents an increase of about 44 new cases a day.

The city of Alameda's increase

rate has also seen little movement. The city of Alameda has 40 confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to the ACPHD dashboard, up from 29 on April 20. The city saw five new cases between April 14 and 20.

The county saw its largest one-day increase in confirmed cases during the two-week span on May 1. ACPHD reported 65 new cases on the first day of May. It was still far fewer than the 81 reported new cases on April 15, the largest one-day increase since the county began tracking COVID-19 cases. ACPHD reported just 23 new cases on May 3, and 24 on May 4.

Hispanic/Latinx still make up the largest ethnicity of people with confirmed cases with 609, up from 312 on April 20. Asians are second with 281, while Whites are third with 267. However, African Americans have the highest death

rate of any race. Sixteen African Americans in the county have died due to COVID-19, a death rate of 8.1 per 100,000 people. No other race has a death rate higher than 3.5.

Alameda County has reported 66 deaths total due to COVID-19, up from 42 reported deaths on April 20. Men have accounted for 37 deaths, while women accounted for 28. (One death is an unknown gender.)

Men make up 923 of the COVID-19 patients in the county, while women account for 875. (Eleven people are unknown gender.) People 18-30 make up 332 coronavirus patients, while people 31-40 account for 325 patients. People 81 and over account for 108 COVID-19 patients but have the highest population rate at 169 per 100,000 people.

The county's COVID-19 statistics are updated daily at www.acphd.org/2019-ncov.aspx.

Edison School is 'Green'

Sun Staff Reports

Edison Elementary School was named as both a California Green Ribbon School and a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School winner in a virtual ceremony last month. The state program honors schools, school districts, and institutes of higher education for excellence in resource efficiency, health and wellness, and environmental and sustainability education. Edison was named a "Green Achiever," the highest honor in the California Green Ribbon Schools recognition program.

Only five schools can be nominated for the federal award from each state in recognition of innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness and ensure effective sustainability education. With this federal recognition Edison joins Bay Farm School, the only other school in Alameda to have received both the state and federal "Green School" designations.

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Alameda Sun is a publication of Stellar Media Group, Inc. 3215J Encinal Ave. Alameda, CA 94501
Locally Owned, Community Oriented
News: (510) 263-1470
Ads: (510) 263-1471
Fax: (510) 263-1473

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May 9	6:05	20:06
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May 11	6:03	20:08
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