



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

July 30, 2024



**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

TO: Marin County Healthcare Providers

RE: Summer COVID-19 Surge

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**Situation Update**

Marin County is experiencing an ongoing surge in COVID-19 activity. COVID-19 hospitalization and mortality rates in July 2024, are the highest so far this year, and exceeded rates experienced during the latest winter virus season.

Summer brings more travel and gatherings. New, rapid-spreading variants continue to emerge. In addition, most residents are more than six months out from their latest COVID vaccine and immunity is waning. These factors have converged to increase exposure and infection risk community-wide, resulting in an increase in serious disease among our most vulnerable residents.

Wearing an N-95 type mask effectively protects against infection. For those who are infected, being up to date with vaccines and having access to treatment limits risk of hospitalization and death. Healthcare providers play a critical role in educating our community and in mitigating COVID-19 surges.

**Actions Requested of Healthcare Providers**

1. Masking

- Marin County Public Health recommends that hospitals and skilled nursing facilities enact masking policies and practices to prevent COVID-19 transmission among staff, patients, and visitors.
- Marin County Public Health recommends that those who are at higher risk for serious illness wear a mask in public indoor settings, especially those over age 65.

2. Treatment

- Healthcare providers should ensure that patients diagnosed with COVID-19 who are at higher risk for serious illness are provided timely and convenient access to treatment (e.g. Paxlovid).

3. Vaccines

- Residents at higher risk for serious illness who have not had a COVID-19 vaccine in the past six months should obtain the protection of the current vaccine.

Marin County Public Health will continue to track local virus transmission rates through wastewater sampling, and to monitor COVID-19 severity and healthcare burden through local hospitalization and death rates. The Marin County COVID-19 surveillance dashboard can be accessed at <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/surveillance>.