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Subject: SMC Health Update 12/21/21  
To: Louise Rogers <[LRogers@smcgov.org](mailto:LRogers@smcgov.org)>

Dear SMC Health partners,

As we appreciate the tremendous resilience and stamina that is on display every day among the frontline workers lifting all aspects of the pandemic response, we also thank all of our residents who continue to adapt to the uncertainties and demands of the COVID-19. This SMC focused *Vaxiversary Feature about a Year of Hope, Strength and Struggle*: <https://bit.ly/3sl07Lt> puts the journey of the last year into perspective through the thoughts and feelings of residents who chose to share.

The Bay Area Health Officers issued a joint statement on Friday urging residents ages 16 and older who have received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines 6+ months ago or a dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine 2+ months ago to get a booster and encouraging all residents who have not been vaccinated that it is not too late. With the Omicron variant now detected across California and reported by the CDC as dominant in the United States, we see this as an important time to keep at the protective actions that can keep ourselves and everyone around us safe. In addition to vaccination, this includes masking indoors, testing if any symptoms, and isolating if sick.

**We continue to see substantial virus transmission** with our 7-day lagged case rate average reported by the State yesterday at 8.1 cases per 100K in the population, compared to 8.9 cases per 100K population shared last week. This is an average of 63 new COVID-19 cases per day compared to 69 cases per day reflected in the data last week. Our current case activity keeps us in the CDC's "substantial" level of community transmission. Test positivity countywide (1.5%) and in the Health Equity Quartile (2.2%) are similar to last week's figures (1.4% and 2.0%, respectively). The testing level reported by the State yesterday (incorporating a 7-day lag) was 803 tests per day per 100K population.

Fortunately, hospitalization rates remain steady, ranging between 9 and 13 patients hospitalized in the past seven days. (between 10 and 16 last week).

**Vaccination update:** The vaccination uptake increase continues to encourage us. As of December 19<sup>th</sup>, total of 659,745 residents have received at least one shot, including 29,918 5–11-year-old children (about 47% of the eligible 5-11 year olds). In addition, we were very pleased to see the reach of the 85+ group get to 83%, crossing the “at least 80%” goal that we have set for every population.

The number of residents who have received a COVID-19 booster is now at 266,856. It is great to see that 69% (83,218) of the 65+ population that is fully vaccinated has received a booster.

Our overall County vaccination rate (including all eligible and ineligible residents) is currently at 85% for those who have received at least one dose and 78% for those who are fully vaccinated.

Happy holiday wishes to you and gratitude for your continued support.

*All Together Better,*

Louise Rogers