



## Mendocino County Public Health Department

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

**Dr. Andrew Coren, County Health Officer**

# Public Health Advisory



Date: January 12, 2022

**Public Notice:** Mendocino County Public Health is advising county residents to avoid large gatherings and limit personal gatherings and parties to 12 people when individuals with higher risk are present.

Mendocino County is experiencing a surge of COVID-19 cases due to the introduction of the Omicron variant. Omicron is more transmissible than previous variants and more apt to evade immunity from a past COVID infection or vaccination (immune evasion). Cases in Mendocino County have more than quadrupled since 12/25/21. Case numbers are also rising much more rapidly than during previous surges, while hospitals are nearing full capacity.

For these reasons, Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Andrew Coren advises that:

**I. Gatherings**, especially those including individuals at higher risk, should be kept to 12 people or less. Higher risk individuals include pregnant women, the elderly, and those with underlying medical conditions (obesity, diabetes, kidney, heart conditions and compromised immune systems, and others). The best practice is to screen attendees for recent exposure, symptoms, and fever, and restrict to those people who are current in their vaccine and preferably tested negative within the last 1-3 days. Maintain 6 feet of social distance and have gatherings outside for the best ventilation. Minimize eating and drinking with indoor gatherings.

**II. Large gatherings** (over 50 indoors or over 100 outdoors) where **social distancing of 6' or more** cannot be maintained, should be avoided, postponed, or canceled. This does not apply to attendance at regular school classes, work, courthouses, places of worship, cafeterias, or any venue that is open to public circulation as part of its regular operations such as shopping malls, stores, and museums.

**III. Wear a mask** that is a well-fitted medical grade or N95 type over mouth and nose.

**IV. Get vaccinated and boosted.** Vaccination is the best protection against severe COVID infection and hospitalization. The unvaccinated in California are 10 times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID than the fully vaccinated. Vaccines are available for everyone age 5 and older, while boosters are available for everyone age 12 and older.

If you have questions about COVID vaccines or boosters, speak with your doctor or call Public Health at 707-472-2759. To find the nearest vaccine clinic or testing site in your area, please visit the Public Health website at: [www.mendocinocounty.org/covidvaccine](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/covidvaccine)