

ACONA Meeting Notes

September 28 2021

Note: All links and email addresses are in the Resources tab of the ACONA website.

COVID-19 Update

Anders Corey, Health Deputy, Supervisor Barger's Office

Delta surge was in the summer. Now at 1.5%, about where we were pre-spike. Post-vaccine, the spike is what the "best case" was during the spike last winter. Test rate has gone up, largely because of school starting. Every other state in the country is in the CDC's high transmission category; California is at substantial transmission, the next lower category and is still dropping. Los Angeles county's rate is also low. Hospitalizations have dropped off as well. Anticipating that any winter surge will be no higher than the Delta surge in the summer. In LA County, 68% are fully vaccinated, 76% with at least one dose, seniors at 71% vaccinated (see the slides for the full chart). In Altadena, 77.5% are fully vaccinated. Happy to accept suggestions on where vaccine needs to be delivered, where to set up vaccination sites. Contact Sussy Nemer (snemer@lacbos.org) or Anders Corey (acorey@bos.lacounty.gov).

Fire Danger in Altadena

N. Jamahl Butler, District Ranger, Forest Service, Los Angeles Gateway Ranger District

Lt. Mark Skaggs, Altadena Sheriff's Station

Greg Short, Battalion Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department

Lt. Skaggs talked about crimes having to do with fire: Penal Code Sections 451—Arson (willful and malicious burning) (felony, 3-9 years with longer sentences for repeat offenders) and 452—Reckless Burning (misdemeanor or felony depending on severity), and LA County Code 307.6 dealing with rules for open fires, and 110.5—Responsibility for Fire Suppression Costs (costs can be recovered from you if you are negligent or willfully start a fire).

Greg Short: Urged people to prepare their homes for fire season. Ready Set Go (in Resources). In the booklet:

- * How to create a defensible home 20-200 ft radius.
- * Home hardening: small modifications that increase resiliency to fire.
- * Action plan: go bag for if you have to evacuate.

Keep your gas tank at least half full in case you have to evacuate.

There's a calfire.org link to fire prep resources at aconaonline.org under the meeting resources.

Q&A

Q: Vaccines are important but can you mention other treatments such as monoclonal antibodies? A: Monoclonal antibodies can be used for cases caught early and are effective in preventing serious illness.

(National Hotline number to find out about antibodies according to your ZIP code (877) 332-6585.)

Q: How do we get a digitized vaccine record? A: The state has a digital vaccine system. Photos of your card have been largely acceptable as well.

Q: Is there a season (dates) when having fires in fire rings are prohibited? A: Open fire pits aren't allowed in Altadena.

Q: Does that apply to barbecues, charcoal? A: No, just to fire pits using wood.

Q: Any new COVID variants you can talk about? A: There are some of note (R1 variant, for example that could be more invasive). Mu was registered in LA County before Delta, but never spread. Delta is the big player at present.

Q: What can I do if my neighbor's property is a fire hazard? A: Definition of a fire hazard is key. The Fire Department determines what is a hazard. Contact local fire station and discuss what is of concern and the local station can investigate.

Q: When do you anticipate the booster will be available to the general population? A: Now measuring the necessity to different populations. Pfizer efficacy is driving that booster. Moderna is more effective so no booster necessary. Trying to avoid a booster mindset if it's not necessary.

Q: Would it be possible to have some of the Ready Set Go booklets at the Altadena Library or at other places? A: Best place to get copies is the local fire station or get a digital copy online.