

**EveryOne Counts! 2022
COVID Accommodations**



v. 12.20.21

The health and safety of people involved in the EveryOne Counts biennial count and survey of people experiencing homelessness is of tantamount importance, particularly during the pandemic. The requirements below are intended to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID 19 among volunteers, guidesⁱ, people experiencing homelessness, and staff of the programs supporting the Count. Black and brown people experience disproportionate rates of infection and death from COVID. In particular, we are especially attentive to mitigating risk for Black and brown people who are also currently experiencing homelessness, seeking to make sure the count and survey efforts do no harm to those at the intersection of housing injustice, systems of racism, and disparate impacts of the pandemic.

These requirements were reviewed by Alameda County Public Health Department and are subject to change as needed based on state and local public health guidance and mandates. These requirements and protocols contained herein were approved by the Alameda County Public Health Department on December 20, 2021 and are integrated into the protocols and procedures of the count. The Alameda County Public Health Department also points out that we may be in a COVID surge by January 25, 2022 when EveryOne Counts takes place.

I. Requirement for all persons assisting with the Count, including but not limited to community volunteers, guides, staff of community-based programs, and staff of government entities

1. Proof of COVID 19 Vaccination
2. 18 years of age or older; with the ability to walk as required for some or all of the estimated 4-5 hour shift
3. Negative responses to the “symptom and exposure screening” (screening) on the day of the Count event, January 25, 2022

II. Verification procedures by when completed

1. Recruitment materials, training and communications
 - a. Recruitment materials and trainings will communicate the COVID requirements clearly, prominently and in culturally sensitive language and style.
 - b. Recruitment materials and trainings will communicate that if someone is not feeling well or exhibiting symptoms of COVID or other contagious illness to please stay home and not participate.
 - c. EveryOne Home will post on its website this document of the COVID mitigation requirements and protocols for EveryOne Counts! 2022.
 - d. EveryOne Home may additionally post on its website FAQ or other more audience-specific or detailed clarifications if needed that reflect these policy requirements.
2. Registration/Sign-up of volunteers in advance of the Count
 - a. Volunteers will be asked to identify their team and participate as a group of 2-4 people from their own personal or work-based social pod. These volunteers will not

- be paired with Guides or others outside their self-identified social pod for comfort, health, and safety.
- b. The electronic registration tool will require volunteer participants to self-certify that she/he/they are vaccinated and include the date of their most recent COVID vaccine or booster. A negative response to the vaccination question or failure to complete either of these questions will prompt the registration system to terminate the registration process since the volunteer does not meet the requirements.
 - c. The registration process will direct people to a URL and/or provide a summary of COVID policies and protocols in electronic format.
3. Symptom and exposure screening and proof of vaccination on the day of the Count
- a. As the team gathers on the day of the Count before they begin their work, one member from each team (team lead) will be asked to complete a check-in process on an electronic app. As part of the check-in, the team lead will administer the symptom and exposure screening to their team members and certify in the app that all team members have negative responses to the screening in order to participate in Count activities. An affirmative response to the screening questions will nullify said person's eligibility to participate in the Count.
 - b. Symptom and exposure screening will include:
 - i. Are you currently experiencing any of these symptoms not caused by another condition?
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Recent loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - ii. Have you had a positive COVID test for yourself in the last 10 days?
 - iii. Have you been in close contact with anyone with COVID 19 in the past 10 days? Close contact is being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period or having direct contact with fluids from a person with COVID 19 with or without a mask (i.e., being coughed or sneezed on)?
 - c. All participants in the Count will be required to show proof of vaccination to their team lead as part of the check-in process. Proof of vaccination could include their vaccination card, a photo of their vaccination card, an electronic medical record, registration in a state vaccination website, or similar verification.
 - d. The check-in process will also require the team lead to acknowledge that they have checked the vaccine status of their teammates and affirm their team's vaccination status.

III. Other protocols

1. All people conducting any activities for the visual count must stay masked at all times with a surgical or KN95 mask (no fabric masks worn alone) except when briefly consuming a snack or beverage. This includes wearing a mask when around people experiencing homelessness, guides, volunteers, Count personnel, even outdoors and in vehicles.
2. All volunteers, guides, staff, or other volunteers in any capacity are encouraged to bring and frequently use hand sanitizer.
3. All volunteers, guides, staff, or other volunteers in any capacity are encouraged to maintain 6 ft distance between people when possible, including when conducting the visual count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
4. Masks and hand sanitizer will be made available for Guides. Volunteers and program staff will be asked to provide their own and may be offered masks and hand sanitizer if sufficient quantities become available.
5. The Count will utilize a virtual, decentralized deployment of volunteers, staff and guides to the greatest extent possible, with no gathering at a congregate, central location. Where in-person activities are required (e.g. to pick up or drop off Count-related supplies, media photos), those locations will be outdoors and/or limit indoor activities while complying with the public health requirements for indoor activities effective at the time of the Count.
6. Due to the intensive nature of the work of conducting a visual count, the variability of how many people are available to participate in the count activities, and safety of all guides and volunteers, the number of people per team will be 2 people in most instances, generally up to four people maximum per team.
7. Guides will not be paired with volunteer teams to limit exposure outside of one's social pod. The vast majority of Guides will be recruited by and on a team with staff they know from outreach or other programs. In very limited circumstances, a Guide may be paired with an outreach program staff, staff of another homeless-serving program, or other public safety personnel.
8. Training and electronic reminders about the Count will include a reminder about the COVID requirements, the day-of Screening and verification of vaccine status, and other relevant Count protocols to mitigate COVID transmission (e.g. masks at all times and windows rolled down when traveling in a vehicle).
9. When traveling in a vehicle,
 - a. Everyone in the vehicle shall wear a facemask
 - b. Open the windows as much as possible, and
 - c. Turn the fan on high and set it to outdoor air.

IV. Surveyors

1. Surveys will be less than 15 minutes in duration for a random sample of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness or who reside in sheltering programs.
2. Surveyors Of People Who Are Unsheltered
 - a. Surveyors shall stay masked at all times with surgical or KN95 masks (no fabric masks worn alone) when around other people experiencing homelessness, guides, volunteers, survey center coordinators, or other Count personnel and will be trained on this policy.
 - b. Surveyors shall frequently use hand sanitizer and will be trained on this policy.
 - c. Surveyors shall keep 3-6 ft distance between people when possible when surveying and will be trained on this policy.
 - d. If a surveyor becomes COVID positive, COVID exposed or otherwise unable to continue as surveyor, surveyor must notify Julie Burr, Julie@appliedsurveyresearch.org and the respective survey center coordinator.

3. Surveyors (i.e., the staff of programs) of People Who Are Sheltered
 - a. Staff of shelters, transitional housing programs, winter or inclement shelter programs or other sheltering programs shall administer surveys to the program's residents.
 - b. Staff shall comply with their employer/program's procedures and requirements to mitigate COVID 19 including masking, distancing, and handwashing while administering surveys to a sample of program residents.

ⁱ A person who is currently or has recently experienced homelessness with knowledge and skill to assist volunteers to correctly identify people who are sleeping in unsheltered locations.