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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Kern County Public Health Announces Latest COVID-19 Facts**

- There are 707 newly reported confirmed cases in Kern County bringing our total confirmed cases to date to 222,651.
- There are 8 deaths being reported today and a total of 2,040 COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- The 7-day case rate is 81.5 per 100,000.
- As of yesterday, 1,125,737 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Kern County residents. 460,241 or 54.2% of Kern's eligible population have been *fully* vaccinated against COVID-19.
- As of yesterday, Kern County has 231 COVID-19 related hospitalizations and 49 are in the ICU.

Due to an error by the state in processing incoming records today's update is an incomplete count of results received. The state has indicated the error has been corrected. The database should be fully updated tomorrow.

Yesterday, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced the statewide indoor masking mandate will expire on February 15, 2022 and revert back to the previous masking guidance, requiring only unvaccinated individuals to mask in indoor public settings. Additionally, mega-event capacity restrictions revert to pre-surge guidance at 1,000 attendees in an indoor setting and 10,000 attendees in an outdoor setting. Both changes take effect on February 16.

Read CDPH press release: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR22-027.aspx>

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on February 15 to discuss the request from Pfizer for an emergency use authorization of the COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 6 months to 4 years of age. Vaccination remains the quickest and safest way to protect against severe illness and death due to COVID-19. View our countywide infrastructure of vaccination and testing sites on our website [www.kernpublichealth.com](http://www.kernpublichealth.com).

Public Health continues to recommend that any individual utilizing a COVID-19 self-test that tests positive to contact their healthcare provider and report positive results by following the instructions on the home test kit or to Kern County Public Health at [www.kernpublichealth.com/covidhomerresults](http://www.kernpublichealth.com/covidhomerresults).

As we continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to improve our overall health. Physical activity and eating a balanced diet can help you reach and maintain a healthy weight and reduce your risk for chronic disease and severe illness from COVID-19. Kern County Public Health offers community initiatives geared at improving the overall health of our community. Get on the road to better health today by visiting <https://kernpublichealth.com/lets-get-healthy-kern/>. Let's get healthy Kern!

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