

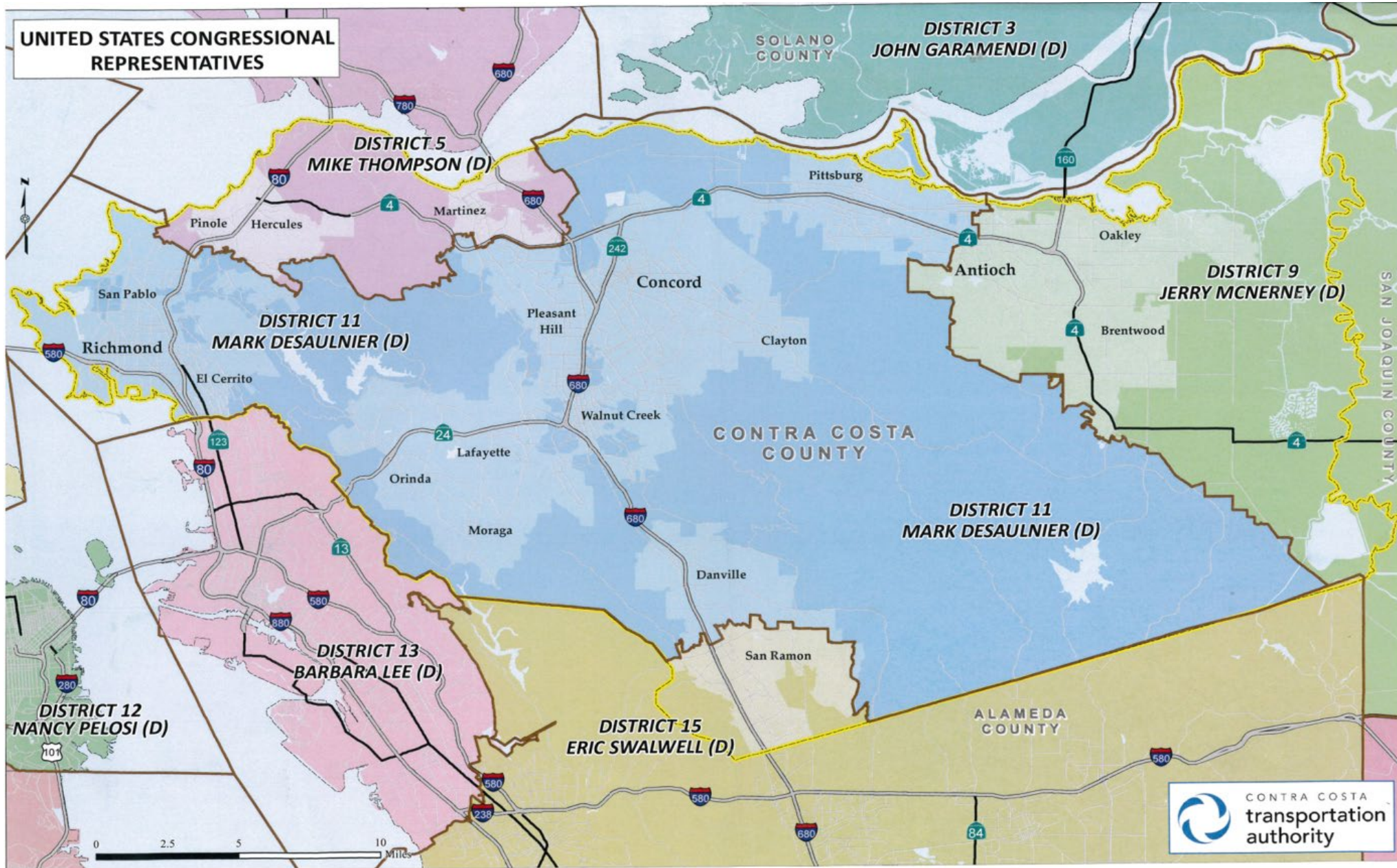


Coronavirus and Communities of Color

Featuring Dr. Sherilynn Cooke and Mr. Gilbert
Salinas

APRIL 27, 2021

UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



Contra Costa Health Data

Metric	Health Data as of April 27, 2021
Total Population in Contra Costa	1.154 million (as of 2019)
Total Coronavirus Cases in Contra Costa	67,670
Total Coronavirus Deaths in Contra Costa	775
Percentage of County Population 16+ Partially Vaccinated	68.1%
Percentage of County Population 16+ Fully Vaccinated	46.6%

Contra Costa Racial & Ethnic Makeup

Race	2019
White	65.1%
Black or African American	9.5%
Asian	18.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.6%
Two or More Races	5.4%

Ethnicity	2019
Hispanic or Latino	26.0%

Racial Disparities in Coronavirus Outcomes

- ▶ Despite making up 9.5% of the population in Contra Costa, African Americans account for 11% of coronavirus deaths in the county. Hispanic and Latino community members account for 28% of coronavirus deaths in the county, but account for 26% of the population.
- ▶ According to the CDC, Social determinants of health are impacting how likely individuals are to contract and die from coronavirus.
 - ▶ Neighborhood and physical environment, like density of housing
 - ▶ Health care access and barriers
 - ▶ Occupation and job conditions, like frontline workers
 - ▶ Income and wealth

Efforts to Improve Health Equity in Coronavirus Response

- ▶ The California Department of Public Health developed a health equity metric which must be considered in determining each county's tier for reopening. This metric ensures that the health of communities that have been historically marginalized, such as low-income, minority or essential worker communities, is fully considered when officials make decisions on reopening.
- ▶ Additionally, every county in California was required to develop a plan for targeted investments in health equity. Contra Costa's plan includes:
 - ▶ Exploring coronavirus testing sites that meet the transportation needs of the community (close to public transit)
 - ▶ Providing isolation and quarantine instructions in 11 languages other than English
 - ▶ Providing hotel rooms for people who are unhoused or who cannot safely quarantine at home
 - ▶ Working with community-based organizations to support contact tracing operations

Vaccine Myths and Facts

Myth: I'm not eligible to get a shot

▶ Facts:

- ▶ As of April 15th, all California residents over the age of 16 are eligible to be vaccinated.
- ▶ Contra Costa Health Services has a one-stop-shop for how and where to get your vaccine: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-vaccinated>
- ▶ For residents without internet access, schedule vaccine appointments at **(833) 829-2626**.
- ▶ Contra Costa County also has **weekly walk-in clinics** where appointments are not required for vaccines. **This week**, they are at:
 - ▶ **Albert D. Seeno Jr. Pittsburg Youth Development Center:** [1001 Stoneman Ave., Pittsburg](#)
 - ▶ **St. John Missionary Baptist Church - North Campus:** [29 8th St. Richmond](#)

Myth: The vaccines aren't safe

▶ Facts:

- ▶ Any vaccine that has been approved for use in the public has gone through clinical trials, which determine whether or not the vaccine is safe and effective. For example, over 21,000 people received the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine during the clinical trial. Data on safety and effectiveness was evaluated before the general public had a chance to get the shot.
- ▶ Moderna noted that 79.4% of trial participants were White, 9.7% were Black or African American, and 4.7% were Asian, with 20.0% being of Hispanic ethnicity.
- ▶ While clinical trials still need an increased focus on diversity, this is an improvement over past trials and we can be assured that **the approved coronavirus vaccines are safe and effective for all Americans.**

Myth: I don't need a vaccine if I've already had coronavirus

▶ Facts:

- ▶ People who have had coronavirus may have some limited natural immunity that temporarily reduces the risk of reinfection.
- ▶ The scientific community does not yet know how effective this natural immunity is, or for how long it lasts.
- ▶ While more data is needed, the scientific community believes that **the vaccine offers better protection than relying on natural immunity.**

Myth: I should wait to get a particular brand of vaccine

▶ Facts:

- ▶ According to the clinical trial data, the vaccines have nearly identical effective rates against serious illness, hospitalization, and death.
- ▶ The CDC has issued guidance on what activities fully vaccinated individuals (2 weeks after final shot, whether a one or two dose vaccine) may do with much lower risk than before, regardless of which vaccine you get:
 - ▶ Visit with other fully vaccinated individuals in a home or private setting without a mask.
 - ▶ Travel without a pre- or post-travel test and without quarantining after travel, depending on local rules at your destination and residence.
 - ▶ It is still important to practice mask wearing and social distancing in public even if you are fully vaccinated, since we are still learning about new variants of coronavirus and how effective the vaccines are at preventing the transmission of coronavirus.
- ▶ To get your lives back to normal faster, get your vaccine now!

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