

# Newsletter: January 2022



**FIRST 5 MARIN**

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

## Spotlight: New Commission Leadership at First 5 Marin



First 5 Marin would like to welcome the new leaders of our commission: **Maria Niggle** and **Itoco Garcia!**

Maria will serve as chair of the commission, and Itoco will serve as the vice-chair. Both were unanimously approved by their fellow commissioners at the January 12th meeting.



**Maria** is a well-known and devoted advocate for children-- in West Marin and countywide. She joined First 5 Marin in November of 2020, and brings a wealth of knowledge from her work with

Marin Promise Partnership.  
**Itoco** is the Superintendent of the Sausalito-Marin City School District, and is fierce advocate for equity-- in education, in funding, and in results.

First 5 Marin looks forward to their leadership as we continue operating under COVID conditions and as we conduct our strategic planning work for 2022-30.

*We would also like to offer heartfelt thanks to our outgoing chair Kari Beuerman, Director of Marin County Social Services, and Lucia Martel-Dow, a trustee with San Rafael City Schools.*

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

First 5 Marin usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 5:15 to 7:15 pm. Our meetings are currently being held online, and they are open to public participation. The next meet is scheduled for February 16th; please email [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org) for the Zoom link.

**HOW ARE THE CHILDREN? A Report Card of Children's Health & Well-Being During COVID-- don't miss the next Marin Communications Forum! Join us on Thursday, January 20th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Email [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org) to RSVP.**

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**COVID INFO for**



# MARIN COUNTY

Marin County Health and Human Services is maintaining a very informative website with the latest information regarding COVID. As of January 17th, these are the following numbers for Marin County:

- **TOTAL CASES: 24,185**
- **NEW CASES WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS: 3,812**
- **DEATHS: 200**
- **TOTAL VACCINATIONS: 248,367**

On this website, you will also find information, medical advice and links about:

- Vaccine
- Testing →
- COVID-19 Data →
- Face Coverings →
- Isolation & Quarantine →
- Report Self-Test Result →
- Travel →
- Celebrate Safely →
- Schools →
- Business & economy →
- Rent assistance →
- Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities →

## MARIN COUNTY COVID WEBSITE:

Visit the website: <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org>.

## DESKTOP: What We're Reading

Take a look at some of the recent articles about important issues related to children and families:

### California Healthline:



## **With No End in Sight to Pandemic Life, Parents Find Disruption Is the New Normal**

As my kindergartner fumbled with his shoes, I stood at our door sifting through the mental parenting checklist newly lodged in my brain: backpack. Sweatshirt. Snacks. Sunscreen. Water bottle. KN95 mask. Vaccination card. (Gammon, 1/14/22)

## **Los Angeles Times: COVID surge renews fears for medically fragile children**

Whenever someone tells Jamie Chong that COVID-19 isn't a serious threat to children, she reminds them that the common cold can send her child to the hospital. Her son, Asher, who is nearing his third birthday, has cerebral palsy and issues with his respiratory and gastrointestinal systems, putting him at higher risk from the coronavirus. (Reyes, 1/16/22)

## **Almanac Online: Amid low COVID vaccine rates, more California children hospitalized in omicron surge**

COVID-19 hospitalizations among California's children — especially those too young to go to school — are the highest they have been since the pandemic began. (Aguilara, 1/17/22)

## **Washington Post: Unvaccinated pregnant women more likely to experience severe covid symptoms and newborn deaths, study says**

Pregnant women who are unvaccinated against the [coronavirus](#) are not only more likely to be hospitalized for covid-19, but also at more risk of seeing their newborns die less than a month after birth, according to [a peer-reviewed study](#) in Scotland that was published Thursday.

## **Los Angeles Times: Editorial: Childcare costs more than rent for many California families. That has to change**

Recent research lays bare an enormous toll facing California families: Child care has become so costly that in most of the state it's surpassed housing as the largest monthly expense for households with young children. Child-care costs have jumped 45% in Los Angeles County and an astonishing 81% in San

Francisco since 2014 for households with two adults and both a preschool-age child and a school-age child, according to Insight Center, a research and advocacy group focused on economic justice. Such families in Los Angeles now typically spend \$2,058 a month putting a roof over their heads — and \$2,450 a month on child care. (1/16/22)

**THE HILL:**  
**For the Sake of the Economy,  
Child Care Must Be Built Back  
Better**

It's time to accept that America's child care market is fundamentally broken. With costs higher than families can comfortably bear, quality often lacking and a system balanced on the backs of an abysmally compensated female workforce, our child care system cries out for a bipartisan public policy solution.

**BLOOMBERG:**  
**Role of Child Care in Economic  
Recovery (VIDEO)**

How many people are not working due to the cost of child care?

**CAL MATTERS:**  
**Budget surplus presents  
opportunity to invest in families,  
children**

Investing in services that promote optimal child development, maternal health and family stability is crucial to California's future.

(By Kim Belshé, executive director of First 5 LA and former secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency.)

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**NEW DATE:  
First 5 Marin's Policy  
Breakfast has been changed  
to Friday, May 6, 2022.**

**The topic is CHILD CARE!**



**This event is being planned  
for the Embassy Suites  
Hotel in San Rafael. Agenda  
and keynote speaker  
coming in the new year!**