



Office of the City Manager

WORKSESSION
February 21, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing and Community Services
Subject: COVID-19 Response 2022 Summary Report

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an update on the City's COVID-19 pandemic response efforts for the period from November 2021 through December 2022. It builds upon previous reports covering the City's pandemic response.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

To continue to document and communicate the City's response to COVID-19, staff compiled the attached presentation. The attached presentation contains a detailed update on the City's response to COVID-19 from November 2021 through December 2022. Documenting the City's response supports transparency and helps identify and codify key lessons learned that will help Berkeley remain a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city—a Strategic Plan goal.

BACKGROUND

From the beginning of 2020, the City has been working to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts ramped up significantly in March 2020, when the City's Health Officer issued the first Shelter-In-Place Order to address the community spread of COVID-19 and the City fully activated the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). The initial mobilization of staff involved over 550 employees from every department, including the City Auditor's Office, the Library, and the Rent Stabilization Board.

In April of 2022 the City of Berkeley demobilized the EOC. The City's COVID-19 response efforts transitioned from the EOC to a COVID-19 response team housed in the Public Health Officer Unit in the Health, Housing, and Community Services Department (HHCS). The response team currently operates with support and resources from local and state emergency orders. California's state of emergency will end February 28, 2023.

Key areas of the City's response to COVID-19 in the period from November 2021 through December 2022, included:

- COVID-19 testing,
- COVID-19 vaccines,
- Work with vulnerable populations,
- Disease containment,
- Supporting schools and childcare centers,
- Public information and outreach,
- Community support, and
- Cost recovery.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no environmental sustainability and climate impacts associated directly with the content of this summary report.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

City Council may direct staff to develop another update on COVID-19 response, as time progresses. Staff are planning for some response activities continuing through 2024, and eventually being absorbed into daily department operations. The bulk of ongoing pandemic related response efforts is held by the COVID-19 Response Unit in the Department of Health, Housing and Community Services.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The City would need to identify additional sources of funding if the pandemic requires response activities beyond those covered by the grants funding the COVID-19 Response Unit.

CONTACT PERSON

Lisa Warhuus, Director Health, Housing and Community Services, 510-981-5400

Attachment:

1: Presentation



City of Berkeley COVID-19 Response

Presented by the Dept. of Health,
Housing, and Community Services

Office of the Director,
Public Health Officer Unit
February 21, 2023



CITY OF BERKELEY
HEALTH, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Current Landscape



Last City of Berkeley Health Order was rescinded on 9/27/22

We are aligned with CDPH Orders

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels used for guidance

We continue to monitor data closely

Data Overview

TOTAL PCR
CONFIRMED
CASES

22,528

TOTAL COVID-19
HOSPITALIZATIONS*

232

TOTAL COVID-19
DEATHS

74

% OF BERKELEY
POP FULLY
VACCINATED

94%

PCR CASE RATE
PER 100,000 (7-DAY
AVERAGE)**

10.67

PCR TEST
POSITIVITY RATE
(7-DAY AVERAGE)**

6.83%

% OF BERKELEY
POP W/ FIRST
BOOSTER

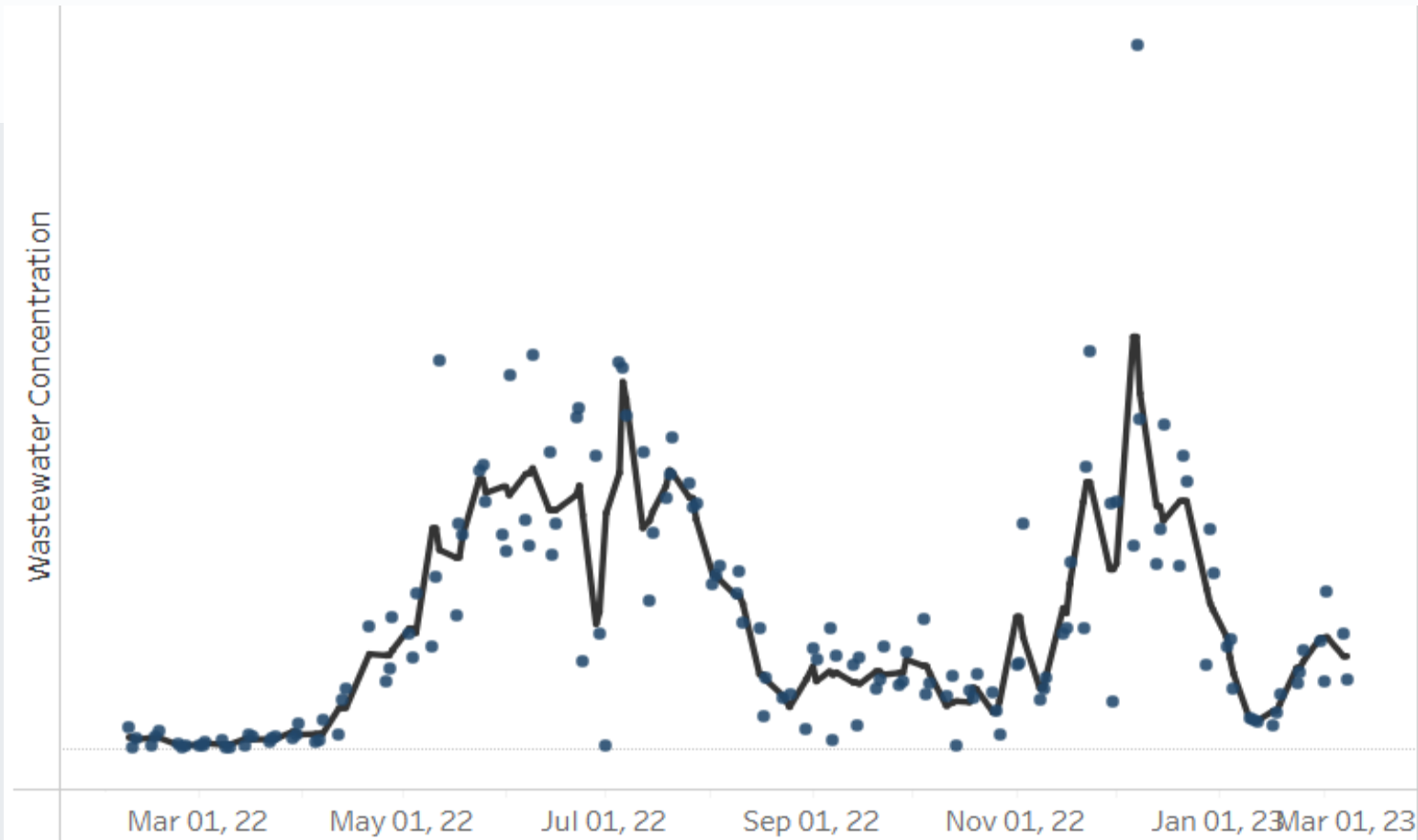
92%

% OF BERKELEY
POP W/ BIVALENT
BOOSTER

42%

Wastewater COVID-19 Surveillance

East Bay Municipal Utility District

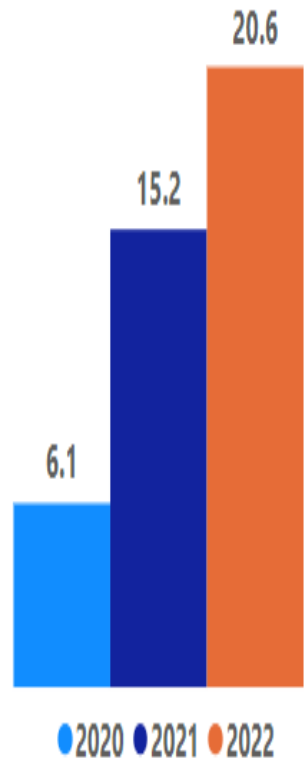


Wastewater SARS-CoV-2 concentrations shows complete COVID-19 impact.

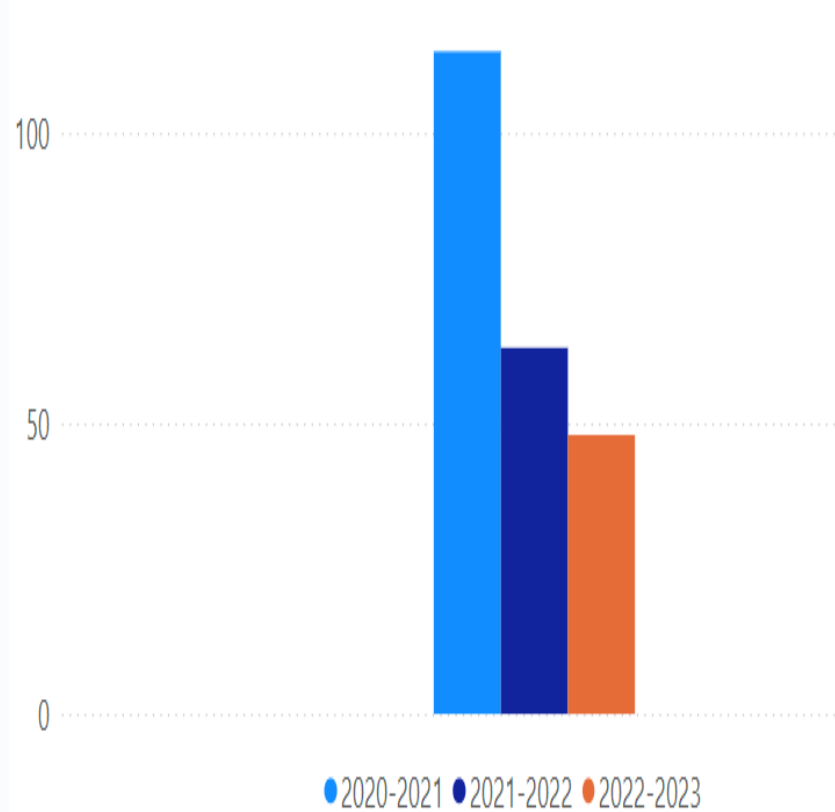
COVID-19 is lower than peak in December but rising

Time Period Comparisons

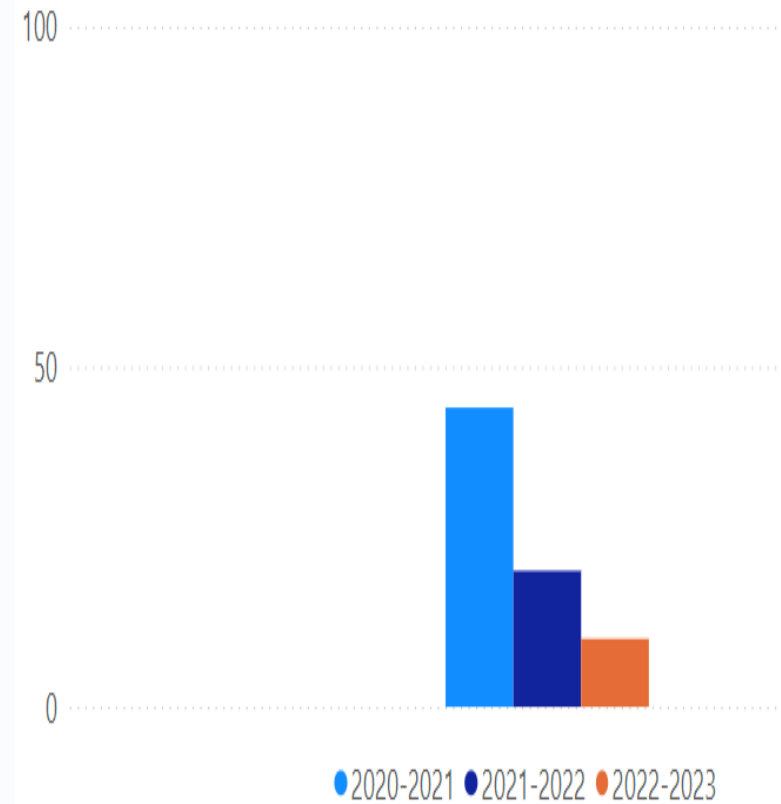
Case Rates by Time Period Comparison



Hospitalized Cases by Year



Death Cases by Year



Remembering
the victims of
COVID-19





COVID-19
Testing



COVID-19
Vaccines



Disease
Containment



Work with
Vulnerable
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Supporting
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Information
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Community &
Business
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Cost
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Main Themes of COVID-19 Response Efforts

In April of 2022 the City of Berkeley demobilized the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). The City's COVID-19 response efforts transitioned from the EOC to a COVID-19 response team housed in the Public Health Officer Unit. The response team currently operates with support and resources from local and state emergency orders. California's state of emergency will end February 28, 2023.

COVID-19 Testing

Testing Sites

- During this time period 51,468 tests were administered at City coordinated testing sites.
- The City continued to coordinate free testing services through our partnerships with Curative and LHI/Optum.
- In May of 2022 the LHI/Optum testing sites transitioned to “Test to Treat” sites providing free COVID-19 testing services and access to telehealth appointments and therapeutic treatments.

At-Home Testing Kits

- In the winter of 2021 At-Home testing kits became available for Front-Line Workers, Healthcare Providers, and Vulnerable populations.
- In January of 2022 the City of Berkeley received the first allocation of At-Home testing kits for community distribution.
- In partnership with community and faith based organizations the city distributed 32,968 at-home COVID-19 tests between November 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

COVID-19 Vaccines

- **94% of Berkeley residents have received their primary series.**
- **92% of Berkeley residents have received their first booster.**
- **41% of Berkeley residents have received the bivalent booster.**
- **All age groups are now eligible to receive their primary series. Individuals 5 years old and above are eligible to receive their bivalent booster.**
- **Between November 2021 and December 2022 there were 9,789 doses administered at City coordinated vaccine clinics.**



Vaccine Equity

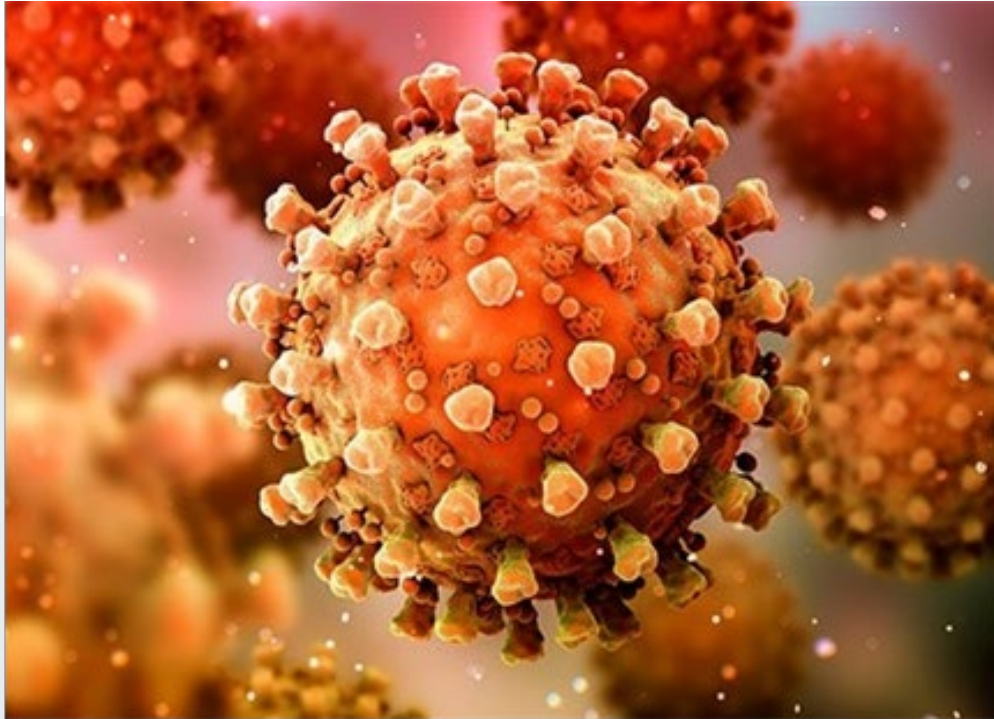
Priority Populations

- Unvaccinated residents over the age of 75 who identify as African American, Black, Asian, Hispanic or Latino.
- Berkeley Residents who identify as African American and/or Black.
- Children under the age of 5.

Vaccine Equity Efforts

- Partnered with Capoeira Arts Foundation, LifeLong Medical Center, and the Multicultural institute to engage in community responsive COVID-19 education and outreach.
- Utilized census track data, the city has conducted several door knocking/street canvassing campaigns in areas of South and West Berkeley with the lowest vaccination rates.
- Collaborated with BUSD to stand up school-based vaccine clinics including clinics for preschool students.
- Hosted an in-person town hall meeting regarding the efficacy and safety of vaccines at San Pablo Park with families enrolled in Head Start, WIC, and Black Infant Health.
- Coordinated monthly mobile vaccine clinics at Berkeley shelters.
- Partnered with local youth to implement a social media and outdoor advertising campaign encouraging young people to get vaccinated and boosted.
- The City has implemented a Health Justice Internship Program which will provide up to 60 Berkeley youth ages 14-25 the opportunity to participate in a paid six-week internship focused on COVID-19 education, outreach, recovery and resiliency.

Disease Containment



- During this time period there were 18,101 positive cases confirmed, this equates to 82% of all positive cases since the start of the pandemic.
- The disease containment team initiated outreach to 16,933 unduplicated positive cases. This included guidance for isolation and quarantine to 9,815 unduplicated cases.
- The team provided guidance to 200 unduplicated exposure events and 350 unduplicated outbreaks.

Work With Vulnerable Populations



- **Facilitated monthly meetings with shelter and transitional housing programs to provide ongoing COVID-19 technical assistance and guidance.**
- **Coordinated 11 vaccine events at Berkeley Shelters, 208 vaccine doses administered.**
- **Distributed more than 600 testing kits to congregate settings.**
- **Supported increases in shelter census while simultaneously preparing for the closing of the County's Isolation and Quarantine program.**

Supporting Berkeley Schools, Childcare Centers, & Youth Settings

- **BUSD operated the 2021-22 school year at full capacity for the first time since March of 2020.**
- **City staff in the Public Health Officers Unit continued to provide guidance and technical assistance to K12 schools and childcare centers related to on-going changes to CDPH requirements for operating schools, childcares, and youth settings.**
- **City Staff in the Public Health Officers Unit worked closely with state and local partners to ensure schools had enough testing resources to stay open during large outbreaks and surges.**



Public Information & Community Outreach

- Continued partnership with “trusted messengers”
- Direct Mailers
- In person town hall meetings
- Youth social media campaign
- Health Justice Internship program



“Getting vaccinated protects the whole community—around Berkeley, and everywhere.”

Naod H.



Schedule your vaccine appointment at BerkeleyVax.org



Brought to you by the City of Berkeley



“You should get the vaccine. It helped my family and me fight COVID.”

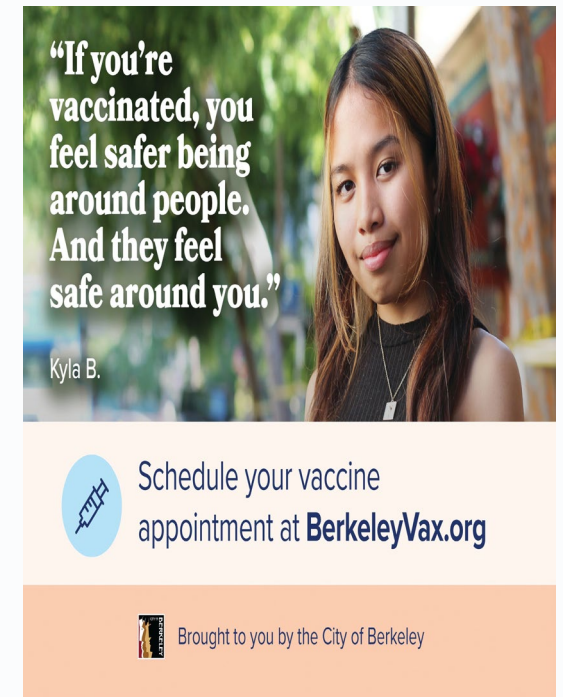
Christopher H.



Schedule your vaccine appointment at BerkeleyVax.org




Brought to you by the City of Berkeley




“If you’re vaccinated, you feel safer being around people. And they feel safe around you.”

Kyla B.



Schedule your vaccine appointment at BerkeleyVax.org



Brought to you by the City of Berkeley

Community & Business Support

- \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to Visit Berkeley.
- 74 one-time grants awarded to Berkeley arts organizations and festivals.
- 114 grants awarded to Berkeley based artists, cultural practitioners, makers, and teaching artists.



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BERKELEYHOLIDAYS.COM *Gift Guide*

Spoil your friends and family over the holidays—and enable economic recovery —with coffee from **Uncommon Grounds**.

Support local businesses this holiday season ▶



Cost Recovery

- **The City has submitted a total of 10 reimbursement requests to FEMA.**
- **In February 2021 the reimbursement request for the COVID-19 expansion of the shower program for unhoused community members, valued at \$64,585 was denied.**
- **Since the Shower Program denial, FEMA has not provided approval, denial, or feedback on the other 9 reimbursement requests.**



COVID-19 Response Funding

- **Since the start of the Pandemic the City has received \$31,575,118 in one-time State and Federal grants to support COVID-19 response efforts.**
- **Grant funds are expected to be fully expended by June 30, 2024.**
- **At this time the City does not anticipate receiving additional State and Federal grants to support COVID-19 response efforts.**



Moving Forward

- **Federal and Statewide Public Health Emergencies are ending along with some resources**
- **COVID-19 will remain**
- **Vaccine and medications continue to reduce transmission and severe disease**
- **Shift from response to prevention**
- **COVID-19 activities will be integrated into public health programs**
- **Uncertainty remains-monitoring will continue**
- **Secondary Public Health Crisis: COVID-19's impact on children and mental health**



Acknowledgments

Bahia
Bayer
Berkeley City College
Berkeley Unified School District
Capoeira Arts Foundation
Carbon Health
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Crown Moving Services
Curative
Downtown Berkeley Neighborhood Association
Hoover Neighborhood Association
LifeLong Medical Center
Meyer Sound
Multicultural Institute
Safeway Pharmacy
Sukam Printing
University of California, Berkeley





Thank you!

**Public Health Officer Unit,
Dept. of Health, Housing &
Community Services**

