



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

August 2020

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COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 7, 2020

Deputy City Manager Paul Buddenhagen provided this update on the City of Berkeley's COVID-19 response to the City Council. The reports, which are issued most weekdays, can be viewed at cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates.

COVID-19 testing kiosk returns for a weeklong pilot

Last week's pilot of a self-administered testing kiosk in San Pablo Park was a great success, with 539 tests completed in two afternoons and all patients receiving results in 24-48 hours.

As you know, we're partnering with Curative, Inc. again to bring the kiosk back for an extended pilot starting Saturday. The kiosk will be located in the Berkeley Adult School parking lot at 1701 San Pablo from August 8 - August 14. Testing is available 10am-6pm on Saturday and Sunday, and 9am-6pm Monday-Friday. [Appointments can be scheduled online](#). It's an oral fluid (don't call it saliva) test, which is simple, painless and quick. I hope you'll try it out.

We sent a [message to community members](#) this afternoon encouraging them to sign up.

Statewide reporting delays on COVID-19 case counts and testing

The California Department Public Health announced this week that [COVID-19 case counts and testing figures are being underreported statewide](#) due to technical issues with data transfer between laboratory reporting systems. The extent of the underreporting is unknown.

These reporting delays impact published case counts and testing data, but do not affect patient care because test results are still being reported directly to providers and hospitals. Until the data issues are resolved, labs are also being instructed to manually report positive test results directly to local public health departments so that case investigation and contact tracing work can continue.

Bay Area Health Officers' Indicators to Contain COVID-19

Our [COVID-19 indicators weekly dashboard](#) is available 24/7, and it shows detailed information everyone can explore. We will maintain an official record that's easy to share with the public through a weekly Council update.



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Because of the statewide data reporting delays, the listed numbers for positive cases and tests completed on Berkeley residents in this week's report are incomplete. Based on the data available, this is what we know as of today:

Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing

Current status:

- Number of cases identified in Berkeley is increasing. There were 74 new cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has decreased slightly, with 11 fewer people hospitalized for COVID-19 than two weeks ago

Goal not currently met.

Indicator 2: Sufficient Hospital Capacity to meet community needs

Success criteria: No more than 50% of patients in staffable non-surge hospital beds in Alameda County are COVID-19 positive.

Goal currently met.

Indicator 3: Sufficient Testing Capacity

Success criteria: Sufficient COVID-19 viral detection tests are being conducted each day through private and public sites. The goal for Berkeley is 245 tests per day.

- Over the last two weeks, an average of 213 tests per day have been reported for Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested -- private hospitals, labs or our City site.

We know this testing number is incomplete due to the state's data reporting delays, but do not know the extent of the underreporting. The information we have is insufficient to determine whether we truly missed the target.

N/A - insufficient data



Indicator 4: Sufficient Disease Containment (case investigation, contact tracing, and isolation/quarantine)

Success criteria:

- 90% of all cases are reached and contacts identified - currently at 79%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 74%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 86%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 82%

Disease containment is a critical tool in this phase of the pandemic and reflects significantly increased staffing for contact tracing. This allows us to see how quickly we move to isolate or quarantine people -- essential tasks in limiting the spread of disease.

There appear to be several reasons for the shortfall. People are not answering phones and not always providing information on contacts. Delays in testing are also impacting the number of people being able to be isolated safely.

We sent a [message to community members](#) this week asking everyone to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of whether they have received a positive test result.

Goals currently not met

Indicator 5: Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment

Success criteria:

- At least 30-day supply of PPE for all health care providers - *Goal Met*
- No hospitals, clinic, skilled nursing facility, other long term care facility, or first responder agency is struggling with obtaining PPE to submit a request for assistance - *Goal Not Met*
- None have needed to submit a resource request for assistance in obtaining PPE to EOC in the last 14 days - *Goal Not Met*

Overall Goal not currently met.



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Our ability to meet these indicators can signal progress or, if conditions worsen, could lead to tightening, as we are seeing happen in neighboring counties and across the State and country.

Testing

Our testing sites performed a total of 855 tests this week. Of those tested, 59% percent live or work in Berkeley.

Our mobile testing unit continues to focus on equity, providing testing to people living in skilled nursing facilities, people who do not speak English, those in senior living complexes and more. The mobile unit conducted 195 tests Monday through Thursday this week.

Disease Containment

The Disease Containment Branch continues their notification, contact tracing and case investigation, providing notifications to over 150 people every few days.

The Med Health Branch continues to follow up with skilled nursing facilities in Berkeley to make sure each organization has an operational plan in place to respond to outbreaks and test their staff and residents. This week, the team hand delivered test results to one skilled nursing facility.

Resources

Audio series on caring for friends & family

Whether you are new to providing support to a person in your life or a seasoned caregiver, the pandemic brings new challenges. The California Department of Aging has a [series of recorded conversations](#) to help you navigate these times (most are available in English, Spanish, and Mandarin):

- [Caring for an older adult in your home](#)
- [Caregiving from afar: caring for a loved one across town, across the country, or in senior living](#)
- [Essential conversations: planning for care and serious illness during the COVID-19 crisis](#)



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- [Caring for yourself while you're caring for someone else: stress relief, respite](#)
- [Grieving and loss during COVID-19](#)

Tips from the CDC for improving your sleep when times are tough

Just like food or water, sleep is a necessity for life and health. During sleep, your body fights off viruses and other pathogens, operates a waste removal system to clean the brain, repairs injured tissues, and forms vital memories that are essential for learning. Getting enough sleep can improve mental health, mood, and ability to think and make good decisions. The [CDC has advice to help improve your sleep](#) during stressful times, when adequate high-quality sleep becomes especially important.



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Friday, August 14, 2020

Deputy City Manager David White provided this update on the City of Berkeley's COVID-19 response to the City Council. The reports, which are issued most weekdays, can be viewed at cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates.

3 questions to reduce risk

To help guide people to safer activities, we've boiled down many of the rules into three questions that people can take action on: Where will you go? Who will attend? What will happen?

These questions are intended to guide people to limit activities within a small, stable group that meets outdoors and uses both face coverings and six feet of distance when with other households.

These questions are also intended to help people avoid confined spaces, crowds and close contact with those outside your household.

We sent a [message to community members](#) yesterday to remind people of the power they hold to limit spread to themselves and in our community.

Bay Area Health Officers' Indicators to Contain COVID-19

Our [COVID-19 indicators weekly dashboard](#) is available 24/7, and it shows detailed information everyone can explore. We are also maintaining these Friday updates as an official record that's easy to share with the public.

Based on the data available, this is where we stand today:

Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing

Current status:

- Number of cases identified in Berkeley is increasing. There were 69 new cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has decreased, with 26 fewer people hospitalized for COVID-19 than two weeks ago

Goal not currently met.



Indicator 2: Sufficient Hospital Capacity to meet community needs

Success criteria: No more than 50% of patients in staffable non-surge hospital beds in Alameda County are COVID-19 positive.

Goal currently met.

Indicator 3: Sufficient Testing Capacity

Success criteria: Sufficient COVID-19 viral detection tests are being conducted each day through private and public sites. The goal for Berkeley is 245 tests per day, giving an effective lens into the workings of the virus in our community.

- Over the last two weeks, an average of 373 tests per day have been reported for Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested -- private hospitals, labs or our City site.

Goal currently met.

Indicator 4: Sufficient Disease Containment (case investigation, contact tracing, and isolation/quarantine)

Success criteria:

- 90% of all cases are reached and contacts identified - currently at 81%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 75%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 85%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 81%

Disease containment is a critical tool in this phase of the pandemic and reflects significantly increased staffing for contact tracing. This allows us to see how quickly we move to isolate or quarantine people -- essential tasks in limiting the spread.

We continue to see ongoing barriers. That includes hesitancy from some community members to provide information on their contacts. Barriers also include delays in testing turnarounds -- which delay our ability to isolate people safely.



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In [our community message about reducing risk](#), we reminded people of the need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of whether they have received a positive test result.

People should [start self-isolating at home immediately](#) if:

- they suspect they have [COVID-19 symptoms](#); OR
- they had a positive test for COVID-19; OR
- experienced symptoms within two weeks of being with someone else with COVID-19.

Goals currently not met

Indicator 5: Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment

Success criteria:

- At least 30-day supply of PPE for all health care providers - *Goal Met*
- No hospitals, clinic, skilled nursing facility, other long term care facility, or first responder agency is struggle with obtaining PPE to submit a request for assistance - *Goal Not Met*
- None have needed to submit a resource request for assistance in obtaining PPE to EOC in the last 14 days - *Goal Not Met*

Overall Goal not currently met.

Our ability to meet these indicators can signal progress or, if conditions worsen, could lead to tightening, as we have already seen happen in neighboring counties and across the State.

Testing Capacity Increase

This past week, we had four test sites operating:

- Sixth Street Site run in collaboration with LifeLong Medical
- The Optum site run in collaboration with the state
- Our Mobile Testing Unit, using staff from Sixth Street site
- Curative Kiosk at Berkeley Adult School.



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These four sites conducted a total of 1,917 tests from Aug. 8 through Aug. 13. The Curative kiosk has averaged just over 300 tests per day. Not including the Curative site, 29.2 percent live or work in Berkeley.

Our mobile testing unit continues to focus on equity, providing testing to people living in skilled nursing facilities, people who do not speak English, those in senior living complexes and more. The mobile unit conducted 377 tests from July 31 through Aug. 13. That included tests at several of the six long-term care facilities in the City as well as childcare facilities, Latinx Unidos and Newman Hall Church.

Disease Containment

The Disease Containment Branch continues their notification, contact tracing, and case investigation, providing notifications to over 250 this week

The Med Health Branch continues to follow up with skilled nursing facilities in Berkeley to make sure each organization has an operational plan in place to respond to outbreaks and test their staff and residents. This week, the team hand delivered 185 test results to three different long-term care facilities.

The Alameda County Long Term Care Facility Task Force will be holding fit-test training to build internal capacity in local facilities to use PPE. One Berkeley facility will attend the training on Monday, August 17, and the team is working to make sure the other five facilities are aware of this resource.

Our Disease Containment team now contains 17 interviewers and contact tracers. They include existing City of Berkeley Public Health Staff, other City staff and staff sent from the California Department of Public Health.

Support for Unhoused People

Last week, the Berkeley Mental Health Outreach Teams made 7 visits to 6 encampments. During these visits, the team provided 43 masks, 50 hand sanitizers, 40 food bags, 25 meals, 69 waters, and 1 tent.

Staff have also been distributing some tents to some unhoused people while also working with them to keep areas around them more clean.



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The EOC continues to support the City's "respite sites." Out of our 22 spaces, 19 are now occupied. Three people moved to the Rodeway Inn, the County-run Safer Ground Hotel that now has 15 out of 41 rooms occupied.

The team is processing referrals and expects occupancy to greatly increase next week.

Resources

Parenting through COVID-19 with young children

COVID-19 brings unique challenges for parents of young children. First 5 California has tools to help parents navigate the pandemic, including [advice from experts](#), [at-home learning resources](#), and recommended activities for [babies](#), [toddlers](#), and [preschoolers](#). They've also created a [resource library](#) with information on a wide range of topics - from talking to kids about coronavirus to paid family leave, working from home, and much more.

COVID-19 video resources from the CDC

The CDC created over 100 [short videos on COVID-19](#) available for download or sharing on social media. A few of the topics covered include:

- [Visiting friends and family with certain medical conditions](#)
- [Faith leaders: overcome the stigma of COVID-19 by caring, connecting, and celebrating](#)
- [I had COVID-19, but no symptoms. When can I be with others?](#)
- [Key times to practice social distancing](#)
- [Shopping for food and other household essentials](#)

From the CDC website, you can search and filter the [COVID-19 video library](#) by audience or language.



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Monday, August 24, 2020

Deputy City Manager Paul Buddenhagen provided this update on the City of Berkeley's COVID-19 response to the City Council. The reports, which are issued most weekdays, can be viewed at cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates.

Wildfire evacuation

In the midst of COVID-19, we are also simultaneously addressing wildfire season. For residents in the fire vulnerable hills, we have been encouraging preparation.

Our updated [wildfire evacuation page](#) guides residents through how to prepare their household in advance, what to do when a fire threatens, how to evacuate and what to do when returning home.

This page was updated with COVID-19 considerations in mind, such as including face coverings in a go bag.

The more that individual households prepare, the better able we are to help those in need.

New activities permitted under health order

As you all know, certain outdoor activities – like pools & haircuts -- will be allowed to open on Friday morning, using measures that reduce risk for COVID-19.

Increased sanitation, limits on the total number of people, the use of appointments, verbal screening for symptoms and protective equipment are some of the required measures for various activities permitted by [a new City of Berkeley Health Officer Order](#), which goes into effect at 8:00 am on Friday, August 28.

The new Health Order allows the following activities, with restrictions:

- Outdoor pools
- Outdoor personal care services
- Small, outdoor practices for school and college sports
- Live-streamed and live entertainment at vehicle-based gatherings
- Outdoor wine tasting

Even as new activities are allowed, caution remains. There is still no effective treatment or vaccine for COVID-19 disease. Alameda County as a whole, which



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includes Berkeley as an independent health jurisdiction, [remains on a state monitoring list due to case rate and hospitalizations](#).

In coordination with Alameda County, we sent out [a community message](#) on Friday evening.

Bay Area Health Officers' Indicators to Contain COVID-19

Our [COVID-19 indicators weekly dashboard](#) is available 24/7, and it shows detailed information everyone can explore. We are also maintaining these written updates as an official record that's easy to share with the public.

Based on the data available, this is where we stand as of Friday 8/21/20:

Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing

Current status:

- Number of cases identified in Berkeley is increasing. There were 68 new cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has increased, with 27 more people hospitalized for COVID-19 than two weeks ago

Goal not currently met.

Indicator 2: Sufficient Hospital Capacity to meet community needs

Success criteria: No more than 50% of patients in staffable non-surge hospital beds in Alameda County are COVID-19 positive.

Goal currently met.

Indicator 3: Sufficient Testing Capacity

Success criteria: Sufficient COVID-19 viral detection tests are being conducted each day through private and public sites. The goal for Berkeley is 245 tests per day, giving an effective lens into the workings of the virus in our community.



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- Over the last two weeks, an average of 413 tests per day have been reported for Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested -- private hospitals, labs or our City site.

Goal currently met.

Indicator 4: Sufficient Disease Containment (case investigation, contact tracing, and isolation/quarantine)

Success criteria:

- 90% of all cases are reached and contacts identified - currently at 81%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 77%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 85%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 80%

Disease containment is a critical tool in this phase of the pandemic and reflects significantly increased staffing for contact tracing. This allows us to see how quickly we move to isolate or quarantine people -- essential tasks in limiting the spread.

Goals currently not met

Indicator 5: Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment

Success criteria:

- At least 30-day supply of PPE for all health care providers - *Goal Met*
- No hospitals, clinic, skilled nursing facility, other long term care facility, or first responder agency is struggling to obtain PPE - *Goal Not Met*
- None have needed to submit a resource request for assistance in obtaining PPE to EOC in the last 14 days - *Goal Not Met*

Overall Goal not currently met.



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Our ability to meet these indicators can signal progress or, if conditions worsen, could lead to tightening, as we have already seen happen in neighboring counties and across the State.

Testing

The City coordinates four testing operations:

- Sixth Street Site run in collaboration with LifeLong Medical
- The Optum site run in collaboration with the state
- Our Mobile Testing Equity Unit, using staff from Sixth Street site
- Curative Kiosk at Berkeley Adult School.

These four sites conducted a total of 1,055 tests from Aug. 17 through Aug. 20.

The Optum Test Site experienced air quality issues on Friday afternoon. Our testing team worked closely with the site to deliver air filters and address air quality issues, allowing the site to re-open this morning.

Air quality put the Curative Kiosk pilot on hold. Assuming air quality continues to improve, we are expecting to re-open the San Pablo Avenue site this week.

Our mobile testing unit continues to focus on equity, providing testing to people living in skilled nursing facilities, people who do not speak English, those in senior living complexes and more. The mobile unit conducted 122 tests from Aug. 17 through Aug. 20. That included tests at several of the six long-term care facilities in the City as well as childcare facilities, and groups that work with people who are disabled.

Support for Unhoused People

The EOC continues to support the City's "respite sites" our trailers and the house. Out of our 22 spaces, 19 are now occupied.

The Rodeway Inn, the County-run "Safer Ground" hotel, now has 38 out of 41 rooms occupied. The Quality Inn has 3 out of 29 rooms occupied. The team is processing referrals and expects occupancy to greatly increase next week.



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Resources

Consumer Alert on price gouging relating to wildfires and extreme weather

A consumer alert has been issued following the Governor's [declaration of a state of emergency](#) due to statewide fires that have been exacerbated by the effects of a historic heat wave and sustained high winds. Price gouging (unfairly raising prices during a state of emergency) is illegal. State law protects people impacted by an emergency from illegal price gouging on housing, gas, food, and other essential supplies.

"As families throughout the state face devastating fires and extremely dangerous weather, they shouldn't have to worry about whether they're being illegally cheated out of fair prices for essential goods and services," said Attorney General Becerra. "Our state's price gouging law protects people impacted by an emergency from illegal price gouging on housing, gas, food, and other essential supplies. I encourage anyone who has been the victim of price gouging, or who has information regarding potential price gouging, to immediately file a complaint with our office online at oag.ca.gov/report, or to contact their local police department or sheriff's office."



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COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 2020

City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley provided this update on the City of Berkeley's COVID-19 response to the City Council. The reports, which are issued most weekdays, can be viewed at cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates.

Outdoor Commerce

As we let the community know in a [community message last week](#), outdoor haircuts and many other personal care services are now allowed if they use COVID-19 safeguards.

New and existing businesses need a temporary permit to operate in public and private outdoor spaces such as parking lots or patios in commercial and industrial areas.

Office of Economic Development staff and 311 staff have been proactive in reaching out to many merchants about this process. OED staff have also been working with merchants to assist them with applications, a process outlined on our [updated COVID19 Outdoor Commerce web page](#).

COVID-19 updates from the State of California

Today Governor Newsom announced changes to the state's approach to reopening the economy, replacing the former County Data Monitoring List.

Now, every county is assigned to a color-coded tier based on its rate of new cases and test positivity. At a minimum, counties must remain in a tier for at least 3 weeks before moving forward. Data is reviewed weekly and tiers are updated on Tuesdays (beginning September 8). To move forward, a county as a whole must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks. If a county's metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned a more restrictive tier. Public health officials are constantly monitoring data and can step in if necessary.



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Counties and local health jurisdictions, such as Berkeley, can continue to have more restrictive rules in place. Data for local health jurisdictions such as Berkeley will be included in overall metrics, and will be assigned the same tier as their respective county.

WIDESPREAD Most non-essential indoor business operations are closed.	More than 7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	More than 8% Positive tests
SUBSTANTIAL Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed.	4-7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	5-8% Positive tests
MODERATE Some business operations are open with modifications.	1-3.9 Daily new cases (per 100k)	2-4.9% Positive tests
MINIMAL Most business operations are open with modifications.	Less than 1 Daily new cases (per 100k)	Less than 2% Positive tests

New state color-coded tiered system

The new guidance is informed by increased knowledge of risk factors relating to COVID-19 and how the disease transmits. Goals of the new guidance include slowing the movement between phases; aggressively reducing case transmission in preparation of the coming flu season; and simplifying the framework and laying out clear goals for counties to work towards.

Newsom explained the change: “We’re going to be more stubborn this time and have a mandatory wait time between moves. We didn’t do that last time, and that’s a significant distinction between what we’ve learned from the past and what we’re now advancing in this more stringent — but we believe more steady — approach.”

The Governor, in his verbal remarks, was explicit that more restrictive local rules would trump state rules. Unfortunately, [their website](#) is not so clear -- and it is creating confusion. One example includes “hair salons and barbershops.” In Berkeley, [the order that went into effect today, August 28](#), states that those businesses can only operate *outdoors with restrictions*.



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Please continue to refer residents, visitors and merchants to the City site, cityofberkeley.info/covid19, which we work very hard to keep up to date.

Bay Area Health Officers' Indicators to Contain COVID-19

Our [COVID-19 indicators weekly dashboard](#) is available 24/7, and it shows detailed information everyone can explore. We are also maintaining these written updates as an official record that's easy to share with the public.

Based on the data available, this is where we stand as of Friday:

Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing

Current status:

- Number of cases identified in Berkeley is increasing. There were 67 new cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has increased, with 25 more people hospitalized for COVID-19 than two weeks ago

Goal not currently met.

Indicator 2: Sufficient Hospital Capacity to meet community needs

Success criteria: No more than 50% of patients in staffable non-surge hospital beds in Alameda County are COVID-19 positive.

Goal currently met.

Indicator 3: Sufficient Testing Capacity

Success criteria: Sufficient COVID-19 viral detection tests are being conducted each day through private and public sites. The goal for Berkeley is 245 tests per day, giving an effective lens into the workings of the virus in our community.

- Over the last two weeks, an average of 398 tests per day have been reported for Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested -- private hospitals, labs or our City-coordinated sites.



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Goal currently met.

Indicator 4: Sufficient Disease Containment (case investigation, contact tracing, and isolation/quarantine)

Success criteria:

- 90% of all cases are reached and contacts identified - currently at 83%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 79%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 86%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 80%

Disease containment is a critical tool in this phase of the pandemic and reflects significantly increased staffing for contact tracing. This allows us to see how quickly we move to isolate or quarantine people -- essential tasks in limiting the spread.

Goals currently not met

Indicator 5: Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment

Success criteria:

- At least 30-day supply of PPE for all health care providers - *Goal Met*
- No hospitals, clinic, skilled nursing facility, other long term care facility, or first responder agency is struggle with obtaining PPE to submit a request for assistance - *Goal Not Met*
- None have needed to submit a resource request for assistance in obtaining PPE to EOC in the last 14 days - *Goal Not Met*

Overall Goal not currently met.

Our ability to meet these indicators can signal progress or, if conditions worsen, could lead to tightening, as we have already seen happen in neighboring counties and across the State.



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Air quality impact on testing

Across the Bay Area, Covid-19 test sites have been fully or partially shut down due to the smoke caused by the fires.

This has also been the case in Berkeley; where the Optum test site closed early on several days where the smoke was particularly bad, and the second Curative pilot that was supposed to run through last weekend was suspended and postponed after two days. We are working on acquiring more powerful air purifiers for the Optum site, as well as creating clear standards for conditions under which they shut down.

With regards to Curative, we are looking at securing an indoor location for them to resume testing possibly by the end of next week and to include additional days than planned. During this time, City of Berkeley testing will be suspended at 1900 6th street; though we will continue with mobile testing and advancing our equity focused testing agenda. Lifelong Medical, whose clients focus on the uninsured and unhoused, will continue its testing at the City site at 1900 6th street.

As mentioned in our indicators, we continue to far surpass our testing goals.

Our mobile testing unit continues to focus on equity, providing testing to people living in skilled nursing facilities, people who do not speak English, those in senior living complexes and more. Over the past week, that has included testing at two senior centers as well as the Berkeley Bowl.

Disease Containment Unit

Our Disease Containment Unit continues to conduct their notification, contact tracing, and case investigation efforts. The team, in collaboration with the EOC's Med Health Branch, made over 200 notifications this week, including providing results to 104 employees at two different Long Term Care Facilities.

Additionally, the Disease Containment Unit provided guidance and communication to UC Berkeley's University Health Services regarding move-in procedures.



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Fire Weather and Air Quality Impacts

As we move into the heart of fire season, staff continues to monitor impacts from regional fires and fire weather events.

On Sunday-Monday, August 23-24, the Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning including the East Bay Hills. Staff followed internal readiness and community notification procedures. This included:

- Alerting the Berkeley community on AC Alert, Nixle, 1610 AM and Twitter.
- Coordinated with Weather Service to monitor forecast specific to the Berkeley hills
- Fire Department coordinated with other Alameda County Fire Departments to assess availability of fire response resources
- Staffed an extra Type 6 wildfire patrol unit
- Changed Fire Dept operations to temporarily restrict out of County deployments (to ensure staff availability for Berkeley response)
- Public Works staff contacted PG&E staff and reminded them of the work restrictions on red flag days in Fire Zones 2/3
- Our Joint Information Center re-vamped our wildfire evacuation page to include more preparation guidance and incorporate COVID-19 information.

Berkeley continues to have air quality impacts from regional fires, especially the Woodward Fire, which was 8% contained on Friday. Staff is monitoring air quality forecasts to be ready to change operations if necessary. While air quality impacts were especially prevalent over last weekend and in the beginning of the week, they tapered off midweek as the marine layer tamped down fire activity in regional fires. While the weekend is expected to have decent air quality, forecasters expect additional air quality impacts in the coming workweek as temperatures rise.

Emergency information for Public

We continue to urge people to sign up for AC Alert, our dedicated emergency channel to reach people over text, phone and email.

[Sign up for AC Alert emergency notifications.](#)

With fire season fully underway, we are also encouraging those who live in the hills to use and reference our [wildfire evacuation page](#), which guides residents through



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how to prepare their household in advance, what to do when a fire threatens, how to evacuate and what to do when returning home.

The more individual households prepare, the better able the City will be to help those in need.