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City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 1, 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](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates).

La Quinta

We were quite disappointed on Thursday to learn that the La Quinta Inn would no longer be a feasible location to shelter unhoused people. It would have been the third hotel in Alameda County that the County had set up, and both Alameda County and the City had invested considerable time in making this effort possible.

Among other things, we had identified and readied City staff to provide medical intakes and well checks and we had prepared to move residents of the Berkeley Food and Housing Project Shelter to this site. On Monday, we tested 48 residents and the plan was to move them today.

We have made considerable progress in thinning out our shelters while increasing capacity. We have set up 18 trailers and re-habbed a 4-unit City-owned house. We are also re-configuring the YAP shelter to take people from Operation Comfort if needed. And, last but not least, we are taking advantage of the County-run hotels in Oakland, where we have already sent dozens of people.

We will continue to work on other ways to help our unhoused and other vulnerable populations.

Data Dashboard

We have been openly publishing our data about COVID-19 cases and testing for weeks on our Open Data Portal. Today, our EOC-JIC team launched a [data dashboard](#) to help visualize the numbers.

The dashboard includes charts illustrating confirmed cases over time, new cases reported daily, growth in testing, and the proportion of positive tests by week. You can see it at <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/covid19-data>.



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Resources

California COVID-19 dashboard

[California's statewide dashboard](#) offers a wealth of data and at-a-glance visualizations for tracking how COVID-19 is progressing throughout the state. It includes demographic breakdowns of positive cases and deaths by age, gender, and ethnicity, as well as statewide testing data and detailed hospitalization counts by county.

CDC COVID data tracker

The [CDC's visual tracker](#) showcases the impact of COVID-19 across our nation. In addition to case and death counts by state and county, it features maps illustrating where school closures, lockdowns, and significant social impact incidents have occurred.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, May 4, 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.

Statewide restrictions easing

When it comes to state and local orders, the stricter rule will apply.

This framework is important to keep in mind when considering an announcement today by Governor Newsom. He plans to announce on Thursday that certain industries -- including some retail, manufacturing, and logistics businesses -- would be able to reopen as soon as Friday if they can meet the guidelines provided by the state.

Some examples of businesses that can open include bookstores, clothing stores, florists and sporting goods stores. Other Stage 2 sectors, such as offices and dine-in restaurants, will be part of a later Stage 2 opening. The announcement for Friday does not include offices, seated dining at restaurants, shopping malls or schools.

While the state will be moving from Stage 1 to Stage 2, counties, or in our case, the City of Berkeley, can choose to continue more restrictive measures in place based on local conditions, and the state expects some jurisdictions to keep their more robust stay at home orders in place beyond May 8.

Counties can also move more quickly through Stage 2, if they attest that they meet the state's readiness criteria. Counties must create and submit a readiness plan which the state will make publicly available.

Counties must meet criteria including demonstrating they have a low prevalence of COVID-19, that they meet testing and contact tracing criteria, that their health care system is prepared in case they see a sudden rise in cases, and that they have plans in place to protect vulnerable populations. The state will outline these criteria in the coming days.

Skate park reopens, athletic courts remain closed

Today, we [reopened the Berkeley Skate Park](#) at 711 Harrison, with new social distancing protocols in place. It will be open daily from noon to 8pm, with limited



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skaters allowed inside at one time. Skaters can [pre-register online](#) for one one-hour time slot per day.

Skate parks are allowed under the new shelter in place order, but any sports involving shared equipment, such as a ball, are still prohibited between people who don't live together. All City athletic courts will remain closed including basketball, tennis, pickleball, and volleyball courts; these activities are prohibited city-wide.

User testing begins on new website

Even as COVID-19 response dominates our operations, we continue to move forward on critical citywide projects including our website redesign. This week, we will begin the first round of user testing on our new website.

We've [asked community members](#) to help us ensure our new website is easy to use by becoming part of a new usability testing pool. Those who join will get periodic notifications of opportunities to help improve our online presence.

For the first round of testing, we'll invite fifty people to complete a series of high priority tasks on a prototype version of our new website. We'll continue to draw from this pool to get feedback leading up to the launch of our new website, and to help us continue to improve long afterwards.

In just one week, we've had 250 community members register. We want as broad a cross-section of our community to be represented as possible, so please share the invitation with your networks. It takes just a few minutes to [sign up online](#).



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Construction resumes with new protections in place

We sent today a [community message clarifying rules for both small and large construction](#) under the Health Order that went into effect on Monday.

The new order mandates different requirements depending on whether the site is considered small or large. Large Construction Site requirements apply to:

- Residential projects of more than 10 units
- Commercial projects of more than 20,000 square feet of floor area
- Essential infrastructure, as defined in the order, that requires five or more workers at any time.

Small sites generally include all else.

The new requirements mandate that sites implement a number of procedures and safeguards to keep workers safe.

Our message also includes information on online processes we've created to allow people to apply for and receive permits, submit documents and revisions and schedule inspections. The message also includes information on how to report complaints.

Mental Health Survey

We posted a survey on our online forum, Berkeley Considers, asking community members to [weigh in on what kinds of mental health services they would like to see in our community](#).

Our Mental Health Division will use this input as one element in how we decide to use state Mental Health Services Act funds, which currently support a broad range of local prevention, early intervention, wellness and treatment services. In the past, this funding has supported:



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- A Homeless Outreach and Treatment Team, which provides outreach, supports and linkages for individuals who are homeless and have mental health needs
- the expansion of the Mobile Crisis Team, which uses mental health professionals to work alongside police officers during mental health crises
- the creation of a Transition Outreach Team that attempts to link everyone who has a mental health crisis to ongoing care
- high intensity treatment teams for both adults and children who have high levels of need
- a Mental Health Wellness Center that is open to all residents of Berkeley and Albany

Berkeley Mental Health will use the input received to develop a plan that will explain how we'll use our funding over the next three years. A draft plan will be available for a 30 day review and presented at a public hearing to the Mental Health Commission.

Resources

Mental health support hotlines

Many in our community are struggling with stress, anxiety, and feelings of depression stemming from COVID-19. Our mental health division reminds us that these feelings are normal, and has [advice on caring for our own emotional health](#) during this crisis.

These resources are available for those who need someone to talk to

- **California peer-run warm line:** 855-845-7515
Non-emergency number for those feeling anxiety or seeking emotional support.
- **24 hour crisis support line (Alameda County):** 800-273-8255
Training crisis counselors available 24/7 for those struggling with difficult life circumstances or uncomfortable thoughts and emotions.
- **Berkeley Mental Health crisis triage line:** (510) 981-5244
Experienced mental health professionals are available to support & resources Monday through Friday, 10am-5pm.



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COVID-19 testing site open to all of Berkeley

Today [we announced the opening up of testing at our West Berkeley site](#) to anyone with COVID-19 symptoms who lives or works in Berkeley.

The nine possible symptoms identified by the CDC include:

- cough
- shortness of breath
- fever
- chills
- repeated shaking with chills
- muscle pain
- headache
- sore throat
- newly losing a sense of smell

This expansion provides a new service to our community. Testing also gives us a better understanding of the workings of this virus in Berkeley. Thus far, testing shortages have meant that lab-confirmed positive cases are just a fraction of the actual picture. As the City, region, and private providers all test more, we will learn more and be able to better adapt our response.

This was a huge lift by many people in the EOC to get this up and running and is an example of the innovative, excellent work we are seeing by our staff at this time.

You can read more in [our announcement](#).

Indicators for Recovery

The expansion of testing is also one of the five indicators that Dr. Hernandez and the six other Health Officers she's coordinating included in the health order that went into effect on Monday.



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For the region, the goal is to have at least 200 COVID-19 viral detection tests every day for every 100,000 residents. For the City of Berkeley, that would mean 240 tests a day. We are not there yet, but this effort will help us get there.

The other four indicators that Health Officers will be looking at include:

- The total number of cases in the community is flat or decreasing, and the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 is flat or decreasing
- We have sufficient hospital capacity to meet the needs of our residents
- We have sufficient case investigation, contact tracing, and isolation/quarantine capacity
- We have at least a 30-day supply of personal protective equipment available for all healthcare providers

We have posted [these indicators](#) on [our COVID-19 page](#), where we are hosting a wide array of other resources for our community.

Resources

Statewide testing locator

Today the State launched a new website to help people [find local COVID-19 testing locations](#). A search by address or zip code returns active and planned testing sites within a specified radius. You can schedule online appointments for state testing sites directly through the locator.

CDC Resource: Testing for COVID-19

There are two different types of COVID-19 tests: [viral](#) and [antibody](#). Viral tests, the type conducted at our test site, tell you if you are currently infected.

Antibody tests may identify whether you've been infected previously. The regional indicators do not include antibody testing at this time, because the science regarding interpretation and validation of antibody testing is still in flux.

The CDC website explains more about the [different types of COVID-19 tests](#), and offers guidance for those seeking either type of testing.

Among the other things the CDC notes about antibody tests is this:



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An antibody test may not be able to show if you have a current infection, because it can take 1-3 weeks after infection to make antibodies. We do not know yet if having antibodies to the virus can protect someone from getting infected with the virus again, or how long that protection might last.



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Thursday, May 7, 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.

Governor's announcement

Governor Newsom today [announced](#) the relaxation of some statewide rules, but these new rules don't affect the stricter local rules in place in Berkeley and our six county partners.

The new statewide rules allow certain businesses to begin moving into Phase 2 of the state's [framework for reopening](#) beginning Friday, May 8. This includes retailers such as bookstores, clothing stores, home and furnishing stores, and florists, with increased curbside pickup and delivery. Supply chains supporting these retailers (manufacturing and logistics) may also open. Before reopening, all facilities must:

1. Perform a detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan
2. Train employees on how to limit the spread of COVID-19, including how to screen themselves for symptoms and stay home if they have them
3. Implement individual control measures and screenings
4. Implement disinfecting protocols
5. Implement physical distancing guidelines

Detailed [industry guidelines](#) are available for seventeen industries, including: agriculture and livestock; auto dealerships; communications infrastructure; construction; delivery services; energy and utilities; food packing; hotels and lodging; life sciences; logistics and warehousing facilities; manufacturing; mining and logging; office workspaces; ports, public transit; real estate; and retail.

The state has also set up a mechanism to gather input on future industry guidance through the [California Recovery Roadmap survey](#). Also noted are specific higher-risk workplaces that are NOT in Stage 1 or Stage 2 of reopening, such as nail salons, bars, movie theaters, libraries, playgrounds, nightclubs, festivals, etc.



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Regional Statement

We and our six county partners around the Bay Area worked to share [a joint statement about the governor's announcement](#).

Our Health Officer and those around the region are examining local data. As conditions allow, they will be examining what rules can be relaxed so we don't inadvertently fuel a surge of cases.

Our region relaxed rules starting Monday May 4 on areas such as construction, outdoor businesses and some low-risk activities. Aligning together has helped us greatly in staving off a surge in cases.

A key section in today's announcement is this:

We will continue to study the indicators that tell us how the coronavirus is affecting our communities and amend the health orders as warranted in the best interest of community health. We share the urgency to reopen and restore our economies and our normal activities, and the equal importance of doing so in a way that is safe, responsible and does not cause a significant increase in serious illness and death, or overwhelm our healthcare delivery systems.

The coronavirus pandemic is still well underway. Our communities will be dealing with it for a long time to come. We expect outbreaks to continue, especially among vulnerable populations. That is why we are building strong systems to protect our communities into the future. We will continue to watch the indicators with regard to sufficient testing, contact tracing and personal protective equipment. We will monitor new cases, hospitalizations and the health care system's capacity to handle a surge of patients. We will continue to work with our community and business leaders to accomplish careful, measured progress that allows us to maintain our gains as we move forward to further reopening and better times ahead.



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City of Berkeley recognized for excellence in crisis communications

The City of Berkeley has received a [CAPIO](#) Award of Distinction, and been named a finalist for the Excellence in Public Communications Award in crisis communications response for our work during last year's public safety power shutoffs.

These awards recognize the best in quality and achievement in public sector communications at all levels of government across California. Our EOC Joint Information Center team created a steady flow of action oriented messaging last October which kept community members informed, safe, and reassured during a time of crisis. I am pleased to see this excellent work so broadly recognized.



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COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

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Clarifying rules for businesses

It can be confusing to sort out rules for merchants and the shelter-in-place. We've tried to make it as simple as possible:

We've created a website specifically for [merchants seeking business guidance](#). It includes:

- A [fillable compliance checklist](#), so merchants can quickly determine what they need to do
- A [fillable social distancing protocol](#), so merchants can quickly post one of their required forms
- downloadable signage on face covering requirements, in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- downloadable signage on [COVID-19 precautions](#)
- additional recommendations by industry, such as for:
 - [Grocery stores](#)
 - [Restaurants and food delivery](#)
 - [Essential Retail](#)

Starting today, some parts of California have begun moving into stage 2 of the [statewide resilience roadmap](#), which allows for the gradual reopening of lower-risk workplaces, including curbside pickup for non-essential retail.

When announcing these changes, State officials stressed that stricter restrictions are still needed in many parts of California, including the Bay Area, and that readiness to reopen must be assessed on a regional basis. While we have made significant progress toward flattening our curve, we still have work to do to ensure we will be able to contain COVID-19 growth as rules in our community are eased.

With differing rules around the region and state about shelter-in-place, confusion is to be expected. Early this morning, we sent [a message about our specific shelter in place rules and resources](#) to our 60,000 subscribers across the City's communication channels reminding community members that Berkeley's shelter in



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place order has not changed. When local and state rules on shelter in place differ, the stricter of the two applies. The Office of Economic Development also pushed out the message on merchant-specific networks.

Vote-By-Mail ballots for November 2020 election

To ensure that people can exercise their right to vote in a safe and accessible way, [Governor Newsom announced](#) that vote-by-mail ballots will be mailed to all registered voters for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

People who may need access to in-person voting opportunities – including individuals with disabilities, individuals who speak languages other than English, individuals experiencing homelessness, and others – will still be able to access in-person voting opportunities. Postage is not required to mail a vote-by-mail ballot.

The Governor also mentioned there will be a great need for [poll workers](#) in Alameda County for the November election, as many of the workers in a normal election year are retired people who may need to shelter at home due to COVID-19.

Resources

State guidelines for eventual reopening

Although Berkeley and the Bay Area region have not yet met the local indicators for relaxing the shelter-in-place orders, businesses can review the [State's guidelines](#) as a resource to start thinking about eventual reopening (such as a plan to train employees, disinfecting protocols, and distancing requirements). People can also give input on future industry guidance from the state by completing the [California Recovery Roadmap survey](#).

CDC Resource: Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes

As we began to plan and prepare for reopening parts of our community, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a [guide for cleaning and disinfecting](#) public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and homes. Thinking about these strategies in advance will allow the community to better prepare for eventual reopening.



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Now is the time to prepare for wildfire season

Even as we are still in the early stages of this unprecedented crisis, we are mindful that other threats loom: summer wildfire season and potential power shut-offs.

Mountain snowpack is significantly below average this year, which intensifies drought conditions and increases wildfire threat.

The main actions we encouraged through [our community message](#) are:

- Sign up for emergency notifications via [AC Alert](#)
- [Pack a go bag](#): in a wildfire, we may need to evacuate in minutes. Everyone in the household should have a go bag with things they need to safely evacuate. In the era of COVID-19, this includes face coverings and hand sanitizer. Those with go bags already packed should check them and replace any expired items, like food or batteries.
- [Practice evacuating](#): everyone in an at-risk area should identify evacuation routes and rehearse using them with their household. We recommend planning for two routes by foot and two routes by car.

We encourage community members in at-risk areas to download and print out our [wildfire evacuation checklist](#) and [power shutoff safety tips flyer](#) to have for reference in an emergency.

Western States Pact asking for \$1 trillion in federal support for states and cities

Governor Newsom reported that the five western states (California, Nevada, Colorado, Washington, and Oregon) have [sent a letter to the federal government](#) requesting \$1 trillion in direct and flexible relief to states and local governments to make up for COVID-19 revenue losses.



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Resources

CDC Resource: COVID-19 household checklist

We all need to plan ahead to protect ourselves and our family for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC has created a [checklist to help families prepare](#). It covers steps everyone should take to stay informed, prepare for possible illness, preventative measures, and symptoms to watch for.

Guide to participating in virtual Council meetings

As part of the City's broader efforts to maintain and expand access during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have created many ways for community members to engage with Council meetings remotely. Detailed instructions on how to [watch, listen, and participate in virtual Council meetings](#) are available on the City's website.



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Tuesday, May 12, 2020

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Governor's guidelines for moving further in Stage 2

An estimated 95 percent of Californians live in counties that cannot meet Governor Newsom's threshold for moving faster than the state.

That includes all Bay Area counties as well as every southern California county.

This [analysis by the Los Angeles Times](#) considered two of the Governor's [criteria](#) — whether deaths have stopped in the past 14 days, and whether there is no more than one case per 10,000 residents in that same time period.

This context helps us when considering that the Governor today announced new industry guidelines for counties moving farther into Stage 2 of the resilience roadmap. The majority of the state is not ready.

Local jurisdictions that meet the criteria set forth by the California Department of Public Health and follow [county guidance](#) may move through Stage 2 of the [resilience roadmap](#) and reopen more businesses before the state as a whole. So far, Butte County and El Dorado County have met the criteria.

In today's announcement, Governor Newsom announced that approved counties may have additional activities such as [dine-in restaurants](#), outdoor museums, [shopping centers](#), in-store retail, and office-based workplaces.

Although local restrictions across the Bay Area may remain stricter than statewide standards for some time, businesses can start reviewing [industry-specific guidance](#) now to inform their preparations for eventual reopening.

In the Census, college students count in Berkeley - even if they moved

An undercount of college students in the 2020 Census is a significant concern this year due to the large number of students who moved home in March due to COVID-19. We're reminding students that [they should be counted where they would have been living](#) if school had not shut down.



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Students who lived in dorms or residence halls will be counted through the university, but those who were in non-university housing need to respond themselves and should report everyone who was living in their home, including roommates. Students should not be counted on their parents' response unless they lived at home prior to the pandemic.

The Census Bureau has ways to identify and remove duplicate responses, so anyone who believes they have been counted incorrectly should simply complete a new response online at my2020census.gov.

Each person counted in the Census results in an estimated average of \$1,000 per year in funding for critical services and infrastructure including disaster response, health care, affordable housing, and transportation. If just 5% of the 40,000 students at UC Berkeley go uncounted in the 2020 Census, our community would lose out on \$20 million over the next decade.

As students move out, keeping Berkeley clean

Many students are also ending leases at the end of May. We are actively pushing a community message on all platforms for students and landlords [to plan ahead to minimize the impact on our streets and neighborhoods](#).

We encourage tenants and landlords to take advantage of City services, including extra trash pickup, mattress drop off, pre-paid trash bags and drop-off at the Transfer Station.

With COVID-19, trash handling is a concern and we have also included information about keeping refuse and recycling workers safe.



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Warm Line for BUSD students

Throughout our EOC response, we've adapted to find new ways to provide services to our community.

School closures meant that BUSD's high school students no longer had on-site access to Berkeley Mental Health Counselors -- a problem compounded by the fact that the needs for mental health support are even greater now.

In response, Berkeley Mental Health two weeks ago launched a "warm line" for students from Berkeley High and Berkeley Technical Academy.

Students can now call (510) 981-5240 to connect with a licensed mental health professional for support, consultation, and resources Monday through Friday, 11:30am-4pm. Services are available in English and Spanish.

This is one of several strategies our Mental Health team is using to continue services during this pandemic. We have also expanded hours for our [daytime crisis line](#). Community members experiencing uncomfortable thoughts and emotions can call (510) 981-5244 Monday through Friday 10am-5pm to connect with a trained counselor who will connect them with resources and determine if an in-person evaluation is needed.

Our [community message about the warm line](#) pushed the information to those who may not know about it.

Mental Health Services Survey still open

We are continuing to [solicit community input](#) on mental health service needs through Berkeley Considers. Our Mental Health Division will use these comments to help craft a plan for how we'll use Mental Health Services Act funds over the next three years. [The survey](#) is open through May 29.



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Staying connected while sheltering at home

Sheltering in place, while critical for containing COVID-19, can lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation, especially for those who live alone. Maintaining connections to friends or family is an important part of [looking after one's mental health](#) during this time.

We sent a message to community members today recommending [creative ways to keep in touch](#) while we're separated physically. A few ideas include:

- Gathering for meals virtually, or cooking the same recipe together over video chat
- Syncing up to watch a TV show or movie together
- Playing games - combine efforts to solve a crossword puzzle, or host a virtual charades party on Zoom
- Surprise loved ones with letters or cards in the mail

Resources

CDC Resource: Coping with job stress and building resilience during COVID-19

COVID-19 has changed many parts of our lives, including the way we work. The threat posed by this disease can prompt emotional overwhelm, and workplace stress can lead to burnout. How we cope with these emotions and stress affects not just our own well-being, but that of our families, our friends, and our co-workers. The CDC has prepared a helpful guide on [managing workplace stress during the pandemic](#), which covers recognizing what stress looks like, steps to build resilience, and where to turn if you need help.

State preparations for wildfire season

Governor Newsom announced plans to dedicate additional resources to the state's fire safety and disaster preparedness efforts. The additional resources include a new Wildfire Safety Division at the Public Utilities Commission to oversee utilities including PG&E, \$85.7 million in funding for Cal Fire to support surge capacity, additional fire engines, and more.

We're [encouraging residents to get prepared](#) too. Now is the time to sign up for emergency alerts, pack or refresh go-bags, and practice evacuating.



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COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, May 14, 2020

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Blood drive June 17

Someone in the US needs blood on an average of every two seconds, but blood donations have dramatically decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help meet the increased need for donations, our Fire Department has collaborated with BUSD and the American Red Cross to organize a [blood drive in Berkeley](#) next month:

Wednesday, June 17 9am-3pm
Berkeley High School, Donahue Gym
2224 Milvia Street (at Bancroft)

Appointments are open now and can be [scheduled online](#). All blood types are needed. We're encouraging any healthy, eligible donors to sign up, even if they have never donated before. Volunteer donors are the only source of lifesaving blood for trauma and cancer patients, accident and burn victims, people with blood disorders, and more.

City staff have been in close communication with the Red Cross to advise on safety protocols to keep donors and workers safe, including new screening, cleaning, and physical distancing measures.

PPE donations still needed

We're grateful for the continued generosity of the Berkeley community. In the six weeks since we started soliciting PPE donations, 282 people have offered to help - including 12 new responses this week alone. We've received:

- 801 gloves
- 658 hand made masks
- 2,471 N-95s
- 500 head covers
- Thousands of surgical masks
- 92 homemade face shields



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We're using these donations to support our first responders and front-line City staff, and distribute them to local healthcare, skilled nursing, and long term care facilities as needed.

We continue to work diligently to coordinate the donation program. Anyone who has supplies to spare - including thermometers, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfectants - can let us know by completing our [online donation form](#). An EOC staff member will contact them to arrange acceptance of their donation.

State budget revision proposal to legislature

Today, Governor Newsom [submitted his 2020-21 May budget revision](#) proposal to the legislature. The State will need to close a budget gap of more than \$54 billion due to the economic crisis spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Governor proposes to balance the budget by canceling planned new initiatives, drawing down reserves, borrowing from special funds, and negotiating with collective bargaining units to achieve reduced pay of approximately 10 percent, and to impose reductions if an agreement cannot be reached. Nearly all state services will be reduced, but the most painful cuts will only be triggered in the absence of federal aid.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 15, 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.

Outreach to our unhoused

Our efforts to help the unhoused have been a central part of our work, and it's been multifaceted. While creating housing solutions is the biggest part of this work, such as moving people from shelters into hotels run by Alameda County.

This often hard to see work on the ground can be quantified in numbers, but the impact is bigger. This week, our City outreach teams to the unhoused visited 8 encampments, two of which were visited twice. During these visits, staff:

- Reached 135 people
- Provided 86 masks
- Distributed 66 hand sanitizers
- Gave out 98 bags of food
- Delivered 58 hot meals
- Provided 1 tent

Among the work they do is to talk with people in encampments to determine whether there are health care needs specific to this pandemic. Identified people are referred to our partners at LifeLong Medical. That resulted in 34 people being assessed, and 5 were tested for COVID-19.

Expanded shower program

The expansion of showers at Willard Pool and West Campus Pool has been a success. Average shower program numbers from May 5 – May 13 per day are as follows:

- Willard: 55 people/day, 84% male, 16% female clients
- West Campus: 17 people/day, 94% male, 6% female clients

To supplement the current shower program, Dignity on Wheels will begin its mobile shower program this weekend, starting Sunday, May 17 at Second and Cedar streets from 3pm to 7pm. They'll go to Seabreeze on Wednesday, May 20 from 8am to 12pm.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 15, 2020

Increasing Contact Tracing Capacity

A critical part of our work is to increase our contact tracing capacity. As more activities are permitted, there is more movement. There will be more cases, more testing and we'll need to do more follow-up in the form of contact tracing.

Contact tracing is a long-standing practice of Berkeley Public Health's communicable disease division -- and public health work around the globe. We identify cases, test them, trace contacts and then identify who will need to be quarantined or isolated.

What's different in a pandemic is the scale. We have two nurses currently doing contact tracing and investigations for the roughly 80 communicable diseases that are reported to us. Next week, we will be training 34 staff members to participate in a UCSF-hosted Contact Tracing training to learn best practices for COVID-19 positive clients.

Staff trained for these roles will be activated on an as-needed basis to support the work of the Communicable Disease Unit and Health Officer.

New visualizations on COVID19 Dashboard

We've added two new data sets to our [COVID19 dashboard](#): daily testing and reduced hospitalizations. Starting today, the dashboard includes easy-to-read charts to help community members track these figures -- each of which we're making progress on.

Both pieces of data are part of the [five indicators](#) regional Health Officers are using to assess progress on containing COVID-19. These new visualizations are one step in ongoing efforts to increase transparency in our response to this unprecedented public health emergency.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Tuesday, May 19, 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.

First COVID-19 Case at a Skilled Nursing Facility

City of Berkeley Public Health was notified on Monday May 18 that a person who had spent time at a skilled nursing facility in Berkeley tested positive for COVID-19.

Using plans that staff had already developed in anticipation of such an instance, City staff immediately began an investigation to identify close contacts, to quarantine contacts and to test all residents and employees.

As you know, an EOC task force consisting of staff from Fire EMS, Public Health Preparedness, and Public Health Communicable Disease has taken a systematic approach to work closely with nursing facilities to assess their needs, help them prepare, and provide supplies and PPE when needed. Our efforts have been helped considerably by the fact that both Public Health and Fire/EMS have long-standing relationships with each of the skilled nursing facilities in the City.

The City of Berkeley had been tracking rules for visitors long ago. As a result of work with Dr. Hernandez, these sites closed off visitation in mid-March. In mid-April, Dr. Hernandez also issued an order imposing [new requirements on skilled nursing facilities](#). Temperature and symptom screenings were required for all staff and visitors before entry. Because of the order, staff wear masks at all times, and residents must wear masks when outside their rooms.

Our Health Officer and our Fire/EMS captain have also visited each facility to meet with administration, to get a personal tour, discuss Health Orders, and provide guidance specific to each facility and spend time answering questions. The detail is so specific that Dr. Hernandez arrives with a floor plan already in hand.

There is a consistent and frequent (at least weekly) flow of information between Public Health staff and each facility. Public Health also coordinates weekly calls among all the facilities. The result of this work is that Public Health has gathered information on each site's patients, staff, patient monitoring, infection control plans, staffing support, protective equipment, training, signage and more. When necessary, Public Health works with the facilities to coordinate rapid testing.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

As part of our work to assist skilled nursing facilities, Public Health also recently conducted a pilot test of everyone – including patients and employees – at a particular skilled nursing facility. The goal was to see if there were asymptomatic cases in that facility. The tests all came back negative.

While we have been anticipating a positive case in one of the facilities, this was the first instance of such a case in Berkeley. It is inevitable that there will be future cases as well. The nature of COVID-19 is that there is no treatment, and it is in our community, region and state.

Our goal is to take action to limit the spread.

State eases reopening requirements for counties

On Monday, Governor Newsom announced that some criteria have been relaxed for counties moving to reopen economies faster than the state. The revised criteria consider:

- Case metrics: hospitalization levels, case counts, and positive test percentage
- County preparedness: daily testing capacity, number of contact tracers, hospital surge capacity, and prevention and containment measures for outbreaks at skilled nursing facilities
- County response: temporary housing availability, PPE for healthcare facilities, detailed reopening plans, and guidance for employers

Details are available on the state's [county roadmap webpage](#), where you can also view statistics by County on case counts, testing, hospitalizations, and PPE distributions.

The Governor also said that if hospitalizations continue to decline statewide, haircuts and church services could be available in the coming weeks in areas where cases, hospitalizations and other data have not prompted tighter local rules.

Resources

State of California two-minute COVID-19 survey

The state is conducting an informal online survey to better understand how Californians feel about COVID-19. We encourage residents to complete the [eight question survey](#) to help



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Tuesday, May 19, 2020

give the state a sense of their perspectives regarding stay at home restrictions, re-opening California, and more.

Some Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) field offices open

The DMV has reopened select field offices across the state to assist customers with appointments and with transactions that require an in-person visit to a field office during the COVID-19 pandemic. The closest open field office to Berkeley is the [Oakland Claremont](#) location at 5300 Claremont Avenue, Oakland.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

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Pandemic Study on Economic Impact

COVID-19's movement deep into the life of our city and nation has provoked questions about the impact of the virus, the related public health response and their impacts on the economy.

With neither pharmaceutical treatment nor vaccine for COVID-19, public health leaders around the world use proven "non-pharmaceutical interventions" to limit the spread of the disease. Shelter-in-place, face coverings and social distancing are examples of those interventions, known as NPIs.

A [study released last month](#) by researchers at the Federal Reserve researchers and an M.I.T. business school economist examined those issues when looking at the 1918 pandemic, the last pandemic resembling this one. As is true in America today, there was a broad variation in the speed and aggressiveness of local interventions. These researchers had this economic analysis:

Cities that intervened earlier and more aggressively do not perform worse and, if anything, grow faster after the pandemic is over. Our findings thus indicate that NPIs not only lower mortality; they may also mitigate the adverse economic consequences of a pandemic.

... cities with stricter NPIs during the pandemic perform better in the year after the pandemic

Pandemics are highly disruptive for economic activity, among other things. They make workers sick, taking them out of the workforce. They reduce demand due to a variety of factors, such as workers reducing spending due to job concerns or employers reducing investments.

While controlling for a variety of factors, researchers found, "timely measures that mitigate the severity of the pandemic may also reduce the severity of the persistent economic downturn. That is, NPIs can reduce mortality while at the same time being economically beneficial."



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

The study is available online: [Pandemics Depress the Economy, Public Health Interventions Do Not: Evidence from the 1918 Flu](#)

Survey of East Bay Businesses

The pandemic has had a deep impact on Berkeley businesses, according to the result of a recent survey.

Berkeley businesses accounted for 561 of the 1,970 responses in an **East Bay EDA Regional Economic Impact Survey** of businesses in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Key top-line takeaways from Berkeley respondents include:

- More than 2/5 of respondents expect greater than 80% revenue loss over the 3 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- More than 1/4 would expect to close permanently if they had to stay closed for 2 months. More than half would expect to close permanently if they had to stay closed for 3-4 months.

The substantial response from Berkeley businesses was spurred by an Office of Economic Development-led team of City staff from multiple departments, such as our Library.

Resources

Health Officer orders

As shelter in place restrictions continue to relax over the coming weeks and months, regulations will change at different times across the state and region. To make it easy for residents, merchants and other community members to understand what the current rules are in Berkeley, we've created a [Health Officer orders webpage](#). The page collects all COVID-19 orders, supporting documents, and related news in a single place, with the status and a short summary for each order.

For this week's [shelter in place update](#), the page features:

- A list of businesses permitted to operate
- Health Officer indicators for assessing progress
- Frequently asked questions



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Wednesday, May 20, 2020

- Compliance resources for businesses, including a fillable social distancing protocol, downloadable signs, and links to state guidance and re-opening checklists for retails, manufacturers, and logistics and warehousing facilities

FEMA Resource: Coronavirus rumor control

FEMA helps the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They've compiled [responses to a number of common rumors](#), and offer advice to help people identify trusted sources of information. This resource is available in 20+ languages.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, May 21, 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.

Housing retention grants help over 200 Berkeley families stay housed

Thanks to the leadership and support of the City Council, City staff working with two local nonprofits created a program to support renters in Berkeley facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications came quickly, and the need has been deep.

Health Housing and Community Services worked with the East Bay Community Law Center and the Eviction Defense Center to implement the program and disburse the \$1,000,000 allocated. Almost all of those funds have been exhausted.

As of May 20, 2020, the two nonprofits reported the following disbursements and projections:

- 214 households have been prioritized and are anticipated to be supported by this Relief Fund,
- 141 of the 214 households have had initial checks mailed to landlords totaling \$402,000 (approximately) in rent payments,
- The nonprofits project an additional \$587,000 in rental assistance for the 214 households through the month of July.

Additionally, the two nonprofits reported that:

- Inquiries continue to come in,
- Current and anticipated inquiries, represent racially diverse households who are most vulnerable including those who are less tech-savvy, non-English speaking households, and families,
- Without any additional outreach, there are 18 households who have met the prioritization criteria and have been placed on a wait list, with over 35 still under review,
- Both organizations are continuously updating their list and projected amounts to account for re-assessments, and
- Many of the checks that are going out are going to Berkeley-based landlords.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Prioritization Criteria

The unprecedented societal and economic havoc created by COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to forecast the depth of demand and the level of need. As applications flowed in, it became clear that community demand far exceeded available funding. Therefore, in addition to the minimum eligibility criteria, the following framework was used to determine award eligibility.

Applicant had to answer “Yes” to each of the following questions:

- Demonstrated decrease of income due to COVID-19
- Tenant has unforeseen housing-related expenses -- such as rent, future rent, utilities and needed health and safety related home repairs that, if left unaddressed, will jeopardize occupancy.
- Rental assistance helps the tenant remain housed in their current unit for the foreseeable future (i.e. the tenant has not already expressed intent to vacate unit).

In addition, applicants also had to answer “Yes” to at least two of the following questions:

- Berkeley resident for at least 5 years
- Tenant lives in low income housing, lives in a BMR unit or holds a Housing Voucher, such as Shelter Plus Care or Section 8.
- At least one household member is a senior (62+) or is disabled as defined by the ADA.
- Current household income is less than 50% of AMI.
- They have partial or full custody of a minor child in the home.

Additionally, individual monthly rents over \$4,000 were not considered a priority.

This program has had a big impact.

Resources

CDC Resource: Living in close quarters

Because COVID-19 spreads easily between people who are in close contact, those who share small apartments or live in a household with large or extended families need to take extra precautions to guard against infection, especially if any members of the household



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COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, May 21, 2020

are at higher risk. The CDC has a helpful webpage with [recommendations to help people living in close quarters](#) keep themselves and their families safe.

Dealing with debt during COVID-19

Many in our community are struggling to manage personal finances in the face of COVID-19 related financial losses or medical costs. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has published a series of blogs to help people know their rights and help mitigate long term financial impacts. Topics include [protecting your credit](#), [tips for working with debt collectors](#), and [protecting yourself from financial impact](#) related to the pandemic.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 22, 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.

Bay Area Health Officers' Indicators to Contain COVID-19

Berkeley's Health Officer along with six bay area jurisdictions have been partnering together and have created [five indicators](#) to measure the virus' movements as well as the development of a public health infrastructure. This is where we stand today:

Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing

Current status in Berkeley:

- Number of cases identified is increasing.
- Number of hospitalized patients is slightly trending upward

Goals 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 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 would be 245 tests per day.

- Hospitals, labs, our City site and others are reporting 54 tests per day, an increase of 22% since last week.

Goal shows progress.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 22, 2020

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 97%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 95%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 97%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 90%

Goals currently met

Indicator 5: Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment

Success criteria:

- At least 30-day supply of PPE for all health care providers
- 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
- None have needed to submit a resource request for assistance in obtaining PPE to EOC in the last 14 days

While the acute care hospital in City of Berkeley has certified that they have access to 30 supply of PPE, other health care providers are still making significant requests for PPE.

Goal not currently met.

The status can signal progress or, if conditions worsen, could lead to tightening, as has happened in places around the world. Stabilized cases and hospitalizations permitted more activities using disease prevention guidelines on May 4, as [construction](#) and outdoor businesses were allowed to return. This week, on May 18, [Health Officers used those indicators](#) to loosen restrictions, [permitting curbside retail, manufacturing and logistics](#).



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 22, 2020

Tennis and pickleball courts reopen

Today we [reopened municipal tennis and pickleball courts](#) with new social distancing protocols in place. Under the May 18 shelter-in-place order, singles games of tennis and pickleball are permitted, including between people from different households.

Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront staff have posted signage outlining new [COVID-19 safety rules](#), which everyone using the courts must follow. The guidelines include:

- Only two players may be present at a time on a court
- Players must stay 6 feet apart from one another at all times
- Limit of 3 balls per court
- No sharing equipment - each player must have their own racquet and water bottle

Tennis and pickleball courts can be [reserved in advance online](#). Coaching and tennis lessons are not currently permitted. While masks are not required during exercise, players should have a mask with them and put it on when they are not actively on the court.

Sports involving close contact and shared equipment, such as basketball and volleyball, are still prohibited between people who don't live together - and those City courts remain closed. Most sports fields and open space in parks are still open for community members to enjoy alone or with members of their household.

We have still not reached the point in this pandemic where it is safe to socialize in-person with people outside our households, and such activities are not permitted under the current order. We ask community members to respect these rules and avoid gathering in parks with people they don't live with.

Resources

CDC Resource: visiting parks and recreational facilities during COVID-19

With warm, sunny weather forecast over the long weekend, many of us are looking forward to time outside. Even under shelter-in-place, visiting parks, trails, and open spaces is permitted and encouraged as a way to relieve stress, get fresh air and vitamin D, and stay active. However, it's still important to take COVID-19 precautions. The CDC has advice for [protecting oneself and others during outdoor recreation](#).



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 22, 2020

California State Parks during COVID-19

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has created a [one-stop online resource](#) to find information on COVID-19 [park closures](#), modifications to [recreate responsibly](#), and free [broadcast-style home learning programs](#) for K-12 students from various park locations across California.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Tuesday, May 26, 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.

Outreach to our unhoused

Our EOC keeps care for the unhoused at the forefront of our work.

That work includes personal contact. Last week, Berkeley Mental Health outreach teams made seven visits to five encampments over the course of two days. During these visits, the team interacted with 85 people and provided 51 masks, 45 hand sanitizers, 124 bags of food, and 79 water bottles.

Our work has a clinical aspect that is key to COVID-19 response. The outreach teams' assess people for potential COVID-19 testing, which helps us more quickly identify cases and take action to limit the spread.

Our work includes new services. As part of our expanded shower program, Willard Pool received 223 total visits from May 18 through May 21. We averaged 56 people per day. Of those, 85% were men and 15% were women. At West Campus Pool, we received 91 total visits from May 18 through May 22, averaging 18 people per day. Of those, 93% were men.

Our work includes identifying needs and then finding solutions. Needs can be as simple -- and yet as critical -- as water. Recognizing the need for sustainable water sources, Berkeley Mental Health worked with our EOC to have spigots installed at two locations near encampments -- one near Seabreeze and the other near the Gilman encampment.

State releases reopening guidelines for salons, barbershops, and places of worship

Governor Newsom signaled early movement into Stage 3 of the [state resilience roadmap](#) by announcing that, for local jurisdictions that see that their data can support such movement, hair salons and barbershops can begin to operate in counties approved for accelerated reporting. In counties that allow it, places of worship can now reopen with modifications, except in jurisdictions with more strict orders.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

The [guidance for places of worship](#) includes limiting attendance to 25% of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower and discontinuing singing and other group recitation, citing "increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets."

In addition to standard COVID-19 prevention practices like physical distancing, face coverings, and cleaning protocols, [guidance for salons and barbershops](#) also recommends staggering appointments to reduce reception congestion, ensuring adequate time for cleaning and sanitation between each visit, suspending walk-in appointments, and ensuring that workers do not see multiple customers at once.

The City of Berkeley and our six partner jurisdictions loosened restrictions on Mar. 4 and then, on Mar. 18 based on progress on caseloads, hospitalizations and other indicators. It will take at least two weeks -- the full incubation period for COVID-19 - - to see how these changed rules and the resulting behavior impact caseloads.

Nonetheless, the Governor's guidance provides a framework that businesses can use to plan for new rules that would guide their re-opening.

Resources

Capturing history: sharing our COVID-19 experiences with future Californians

The California State Archives is asking Californians to document their COVID-19 experiences so future generations can better understand what it was like to live through the pandemic. The community memory project will serve as a critical primary source for future generations seeking to understand how COVID-19 impacted residents throughout the state. Submissions [submitted through an online form](#) will become part of the State Archives' historical collections and may be featured on the [California COVID-19 Archive](#) webpage.

CDC Resource: Travel

For some, essential travel during the COVID-19 pandemic may be unavoidable. The CDC is continually updating [guidance for people who need to travel](#) domestically or internationally. It covers the risks of traveling, how to reduce the chances of getting sick, and what to do when returning home from other countries.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, May 27, 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.

Testing at Skilled Nursing Facilities in Berkeley

We are on an accelerated pace to test all residents and staff, regardless of symptoms, at Berkeley's five skilled nursing facilities and one long-term care facility by June 4.

Two facilities have been tested completely. Of the 308 people tested, the only two positives are the ones we reported to you about last week. Testing of the remaining 407 residents and staff of the other facilities began today at a third site. As part of this process, residents will be tested by a combination of Lifelong, Kaiser Permanente, and City staff. Employees will be tested at the Berkeley test site.

City staff are also working to provide fit testing and training of nursing staff at each facility so they can test the residents themselves, in collaboration with local healthcare providers and City staff. After June 4, 2020, new California Department of Public Health recommendations require each skilled nursing facility to attest monthly that 100% of staff and 100% of residents have been tested for COVID-19.

This close work with these facilities has been years in the making, but has intensified in the past few months as Berkeley Public Health and the facilities have developed protocols, practices and other preparations for potential COVID-19 cases. The goal is to develop procedures that limit potential exposures -- such as the ending of visits -- and to also act quickly to identify cases and limit spread through identification, investigation, quarantine and isolation.

City of Berkeley staff have been meeting weekly and providing individualized consultation with these facilities to support outbreak prevention and management.

Childcare and Summer Camps

We put out a community message today to help parents, childcare providers and summer camps navigate the rules for care under the latest shelter-in-place order.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

For parents, we conveyed that as work is now open to a broad range of people, so are childcare and camps options. Part of the communications we have maintained online is [a detailed list of all businesses that are allowed to operate](#).

For childcare providers, we outlined the main rules established to minimize spread of COVID-19:

1. Children must be placed in stable groups of no more than 12 children, with the same children grouped together each day.
2. Groups of children should stay intact, with no children moving in or out of the group, for at least three weeks.
3. If there is more than one group of children at a facility, each group should be in a separate room and groups should not mix with each other.
4. Caretakers should remain solely with one group of children.

For summer camp providers, the City developed [a detailed guidance for summer camps](#) on how to adapt programming to support social distancing requirements.

Camps will need to:

- Eliminate large group activities like campfires and sing-alongs
- Stagger activities so two groups aren't in the same place at the same time
- Encourage individual activities like painting, crafts, and building with blocks
- Do as many activities outdoors as possible

Feel free to share [this community message](#) on your networks.

Resources

Online portal for locating childcare

Workers seeking childcare options can use a state portal to find safe, reliable and accessible providers. [MyChildCare.ca.gov](https://www.mychildcare.ca.gov) offers interactive maps of available qualified licensed providers based on location, child age, capacity and type of care. The tool is available in English and Spanish.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Keeping children healthy while school is out

The CDC has helpful [advice for caretakers of children](#) during COVID-19. The guidance offers tips on teaching and reinforcing everyday healthy behaviors, keeping children active and socially connected, and helping children cope with stress.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, May 28, 2020

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Meters at \$0.50 an hour on June 1

Our demand-based pricing for meters gives us flexibility in boom times and in a pandemic.

Starting June 1, we will start pricing meters at 50 cents an hour in all areas as a way to encourage turnover. We know businesses are struggling. They need customers. At the same time, we also know that some drivers have chosen to park in front of meters for extended periods of time.

We sent out a [community message today announcing this change](#). With this first signal, we'll see how that impacts parking and we'll adjust pricing and potentially times as well.

When demand to drive downtown has been high, we've used our demand-based pricing known as goBerkeley to increase rates in the highest demand areas, such as near Center and Shattuck, while lowering rates and extending time limits in lower demand areas, such as Shattuck near Dwight.

This has increased the availability of parking spaces and reduced circling for driving -- which cuts down on congestion and related greenhouse gases.

We are continuing to enforce public safety-related violations, including red curbs, fire hydrants, disabled parking blue zones, street sweeping, yellow zones in commercial areas and double parking.

For now, we will continue to not issue citations for parking violations that do not have public safety impacts, including residential permit parking, school zones, time limits, and parking meters.

Candidate Petitions During Pandemic

This November's election will be unlike any other, from how candidates run for office to how voters cast ballots. It also will include elements such as how candidates can collect signatures from registered voters to offset campaign filing fees.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, May 28, 2020

We put out a community message today explaining how [candidates can work with the Clerk Department to obtain petitions and meet with staff while using protocols to limit spread of COVID-19](#).

Resources

Traffic safety benefits as people stay home

The California Highway Patrol reports that the [number of incidents on California's roadways continue to decline](#) as people are staying home during the pandemic.

While some numbers are down (crashes down by 75%; deaths by 88%, injuries by 62%), CHP notes an increase of 46% in citations for speeding 100+ miles per hour. As we move into the next phases of reopening, we need everyone to slow down, pay attention to the road, and drive sober.

Alameda County Resource: Online marriages and virtual ceremonies

Important life events continue during shelter-in-place. The Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's office is issuing online marriage licenses and [performing marriage ceremonies virtually](#). Interested couples can begin the process by emailing CROCustomerService@acgov.org. Domestic partnership registration is also available by mail through the [State of California](#).



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 29, 2020

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Bay Area Health Officers' Indicators to Contain COVID-19

Berkeley's Health Officer as well as the six jurisdictions we have been partnering with created [five indicators](#) to measure the virus' movements as well as the development of public health infrastructure. This is where we stand today:

Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing

Current status in Alameda County:

- Number of cases identified is increasing.
- Number of hospitalized patients is slightly trending upward

Goals 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 would be 245 tests per day.

- Hospitals, labs, our City site and others are reporting a total of 85 tests per day, an increase of 57% since last week's average of 54 tests per day.

Goal not 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 98%



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 29, 2020

- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 95%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 97%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 90%

Goals currently 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.

The status can signal progress or, if conditions worsen, could lead to tightening, as has happened in places around the world. Stabilized cases and hospitalizations permitted more activities using disease prevention guidelines on May 4, as [construction](#) and outdoor businesses were allowed to return. Last week, on May 18, [Health Officers used those indicators](#) to loosen restrictions, [permitting curbside retail, manufacturing and logistics](#).

Resources

Newsom: local conditions determine local rules, pace

Governor Newsom today emphasized that local public health officers will decide when to reopen local economies based on local conditions. “The state puts out the guidelines on how to safely reopen, it’s the counties working with their health directors that determine the pace of when,” Newsom said. “Each county has its own unique conditions and localism is the foundational principle.”

The governor also said those counties with data that health officers believe can support relaxation of other rules can move into [Stage Three](#), which includes phasing



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in higher-risk businesses, beginning with limited personal care and recreational venues. More guidelines will be released next week.

Expanded support for victims of domestic violence

According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, California is in the top percentile of COVID-related calls in the nation. The state has announced [new initiatives to support victims of domestic violence](#) amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts include additional state funding, expanding “text-to-911” capability to 75% of the state, and partnerships with Airbnb and Uber to provide transportation and accommodation to domestic violence victims. Anyone experiencing domestic violence should call the state’s 24-hour hotline (800-799-7233) or the national hotline (800-799-SAFE).