



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, April 17, 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.

Health Officer Order for Face Coverings

Our health officer and several others around the region issued orders today requiring everyone, with very few exceptions, to wear a cloth face covering over their mouth and nose when visiting or working at essential businesses.

All of us are potential carriers of COVID-19, and the face coverings reduce the spread of this airborne virus. COVID-19 spreads easily, even through a conversation with someone without symptoms. While the guidance Dr. Hernandez issued two weeks ago prompted thousands to quickly adopt face coverings, many still do not. We hope that the force of an order compels others to take this critical, simple and achievable step.

As we all know, there is no medicine nor vaccine for COVID-19. Actions like these play a critical role in allowing our community to return to some form of normalcy in as safe a manner as possible.

We sent [a community message](#), which is posted along with [the order](#) on our COVID-19 page, www.cityofberkeley.info/covid19.

Open Data Portal

Today we published a [complete dataset of confirmed COVID-19 cases](#) in Berkeley on the City's Open Data Portal. Daily totals of new and cumulative cases starting with the date of the first positive test in Berkeley can now be viewed online, downloaded in multiple formats, and accessed through API.

This is the culmination of weeks of work from EOC and Public Health staff. Special thanks go to our epidemiologist in Public Health and our Open Data coordinator in IT for spearheading this is major step forward for transparency.

A note on the data – to protect individual health privacy, we are not able to publish Berkeley-specific demographic information. Those demographic details are included



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in the countywide aggregated data that includes Berkeley and which is published on the [Alameda County COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Key Community Messages

These are some of the key messages we are currently sharing with community members.

Land Use applications available online

While City offices are closed to the public, Planning staff continue to work on new and continuing Land Use applications, including administrative use permits, use permits, design review, and landmarks submittals. Find [instructions for accessing Land Use services remotely](#) on the City's website.

Importance of maintaining connections for seniors

We are now one month into sheltering at home. While this is necessary to protect the health of our entire community, it can be especially hard on older adults whose support networks are interrupted. Seniors living alone may struggle with feelings of loneliness. We are encouraging everyone to reach out family, friends, and neighbors who may be isolated and in need of a kind word and human connection.

[Crisis Support Services of Alameda County](#) is providing daily phone calls for homebound seniors during the COVID-19 crisis. For more information or to sign up call (510) 282-9089.

Blood donations needed

Statewide, donated blood has decreased dramatically. We are asking everyone who is eligible to donate to do so. This will ensure there is lifesaving blood on the shelves for those who need it most. The nearest Red Cross Donation Center is in Oakland, at 6230 Claremont Avenue. You can make an appointment there or find another location at [redcrossblood.org](#).