



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, April 20, 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](http://cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates).*

## Resources for merchants

Today we provided businesses with a variety of tools to translate the Health Officer's [shelter-in-place](#) and [masking orders](#) into straightforward actions that keeps both their employees and their customers safe.

Staff created [a community message](#) that lays out in simple language the requirements for businesses as well as expectations for customers. The most recent orders require merchants to post specific signage on mask requirements and COVID-19 safety, and we created those materials for them.

Essential businesses are also required to create and publicly post a detailed document outlining the steps the facility has taken to protect customer and employee health. We've [provided a template](#) businesses can use to fulfill this mandate for download from the City's website.

To further help businesses in this fast-changing environment, we have also created specific guidance for best practices by industry. Detailed guidance documents for grocery stores, restaurants, and essential retail are available on a new [materials for businesses webpage](#), which also contains downloadable signs and handouts to assist merchants in promoting social distancing and other COVID-19 safety measures.

All of these details are summarized in the community message, which you can also find on our home page and our [COVID-19 page](#). We're not aware of any City that has created all of these resources, especially so quickly after the masking order.

## Resources

### How to make a no-sew DIY face covering

The enforcement grace period for [the mask order Berkeley's Health Officer issued Friday](#) ends soon. Starting Wednesday at 8am, people who aren't wearing face coverings will not be allowed inside businesses or on shared transportation.

Everyone should know that complying with this Order does not require any special supplies – simple do-it-yourself face coverings improvised from a scarf, bandana,



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, April 20, 2020

neck gaiter, or t-shirt are fine. Here's a short video demonstrating [how to make a no-sew mask](#) from a piece of cloth and two rubber bands.

## **State launches new unemployment call center**

The State Employment Development Department has launched a new call center to assist the record number of Californians applying for unemployment insurance. Staff are available seven days a week, 8am-8pm to provide technical help filing claims online, help with receiving an account number, and to answer general unemployment insurance questions. The number is 833-978-2511.