



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Tuesday, April 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.

Face covering grace period ends

The Health Officer's order requiring face coverings in a variety of places had a grace period for enforcement. That ends on Wednesday morning.

Those specific types of places when everyone must wear a mask include the following:

- shopping at a store
- waiting in line to enter a store
- using or waiting for public transportation
- in a taxi or rideshare
- seeking healthcare
- working at an essential job

People will not be allowed to enter a business or use shared transportation if they are not wearing a face covering.

There are limited exceptions to the requirement for people who have physical disabilities that prevent wearing a face covering, are not able to take a face covering off without help, or who have documentation from a medical professional saying they should not wear one.

Children 2 years or younger should not wear face coverings due to risk of suffocation. For children 3-12 years old, face coverings are optional and should be used only with a parents' supervision.

Our [community message today](#) includes explains why these coverings are critical to slow the spread of COVID-19, resources to show people how to make coverings on their own and also makes a call for donations of face coverings.



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Business Requirements

Among the many resources provided for merchants in Monday's community message were a series of tools to help businesses easily navigate and comply the Health Officer's orders.

Those tools include [a compliance checklist](#) the JIC created to help walk businesses through every step.

Resources provided to merchants also include a series of guidances that are specific to three core industries:

- [Guidance for grocery stores](#)
- [Guidance for restaurants and food delivery](#)
- [Guidance for essential retail businesses](#)

All of the City's COVID-19 information is hosted at www.cityofberkeley.info/covid19, where community members can also sign up for email updates.