



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, April 24, 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.

Cost of City Response

While we are still examining many aspects of our response, the total costs of our EOC response is about \$5 million. That includes at least \$1.3 million in personnel costs as of April 4 and a preliminary estimate of \$700,000 for non-personnel costs. The latter category includes a wide array of things: increased portable toilets and handwashing stations, protective equipment, technology to allow City staff to telework on a mass scale, new online services, the needs of the testing site, the costs of additional shelter and more.

A core priority is to ensure we do what we can to qualify for state and federal funding reimbursements, and that is a daily part of our practice.

These totals include the \$3 million from the Berkeley Relief Fund created by the City Council.

Data on Berkeley's cases

There have been 854 COVID-19 tests on Berkeley residents that have been reported to us, that we conducted at our test site or that we coordinated. Of those tests, 5.5 percent were positive, yielding a total of 47 confirmed cases. (This doesn't include the two cases from the Grand Princess.) We still have only one death.

We know that there has been active, undetected spread of the virus in Berkeley and throughout the region. As we and others increase testing, we should expect to see more cases.

In addition to a dataset on [our confirmed COVID-19 cases](#), our Open Data Portal now also hosts [a dataset on our testing history](#) and adds more transparency to what we are seeing. While the need to protect patient privacy limits how much we can share about City residents, we are providing all of that data to the County, so that more reliable aggregate data can show trends or areas of focus, such as gender and race. The County is also posting this information on [their own dashboard](#).



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Berkeley's slow streets, pioneering what other cities now seek

The Chronicle ran a story today with a notable headline: [Big Bay Area cities are embracing 'slow streets' during shelter in place. Berkeley did it decades ago](#). Here is some of what author, John King, wrote:

If you think Oakland and San Francisco's recent moves to close selected neighborhood streets to through traffic during the coronavirus crisis feel familiar, there's a reason: Berkeley has been doing it for at least 50 years.

Support for seniors: meal delivery, wellness calls, and emotional support line

As you know, the City has made extensive efforts to reach out to our seniors. That includes delivering a week's worth of food to 250 of our elders, wellness checks and more.

Today [Governor Newsom announced](#) three initiatives to support seniors.

Restaurants Deliver: Home Meals for Seniors will reimburse restaurants to prepare nutritious meals for delivery to eligible seniors. Funds for the program will primarily come from FEMA and the state, with a smaller percent from local governments. The program will support seniors, boost the restaurant industry, and help generate local sales tax. Seniors can call 211 to see if they are eligible.

Social Bridging Project mobilizes 1,000+ callers to proactively contact seniors to combat social isolation. Callers will check on the person's well-being and connect them to resources.

Friendship Line California (1-888-670-1360) is a toll-free line available to provide emotional support to seniors.