



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, April 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.

Extension of Shelter in Place

As you are all aware, our Health Officer and the six others who led the region and state on sheltering-in-place announced today that [they will extend the shelter-in-place through May](#) and that they would ease restrictions on a small number of lower-risk activities.

This decision reflects the reality that we will be grappling with COVID-19 for quite some time to come. There is not yet a vaccine, nor a medical treatment. While actions thus far prevented overwhelming our hospitals, where a limited supply of ventilators sustain those with severe COVID-19 illness, a future surge is still possible with a virus that easily spreads on surfaces and conversations within 6 feet.

People will continue to need to stay home for all but essential activities. When they go out, they'll need to wear a face covering. They should wash hands frequently, and they should continue to cough or sneeze into their elbows.

Steady progress is the goal. An exponential spread of COVID-19 could have grave impacts to health and wellness of residents and the economy.

Budget presentation

Along with Deputy City Manager Dave White, Budget Manager Teresa Berkeley-Simmons, Finance Director Henry Oyekanmi and City Auditor, Jenny Wong, all gave presentations to the Budget and Finance Committee about the impact of COVID-19 on the City's finances.

[The Staff report](#) gives detail on potential impact to a variety of funds and revenue streams, principles we are using to guide our response, and strategies we are using to guide us in the near term. (This report is distinct from [a financial overview of the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#), which was also presented today.)

While Berkeley's careful planning and fiscal restraint has given us some flexibility to react to the current pandemic, the loss of revenue will still be challenging. The effects of this pandemic are unknown but will likely be felt for years to come.



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Therefore, as a City, we are striving to be conservative in our outlook and approach. As additional revenues are generated, priority operational needs will be reassessed for funding. Our goal is to ensure that the budget continues to demonstrate our commitment to stewarding the public's resources for their benefit and that of future generations.

Resources

Community guide to virtual Council meetings

With another remote Council meeting coming up tomorrow, we're continuing our efforts to make virtual meetings accessible to community members sheltering at home. We've published a guide to the many ways to [watch, listen and participate in virtual Council meetings](#) on our website.

CDC symptom self-check tool

Most people who become ill with COVID-19 will need to recover at home. For people with mild symptoms, it's best to stay home rather than risk exposing others by visiting a medical facility. The CDC has developed an [online self-assessment tool](#) which guides visitors through a series of simple questions about their symptoms to help guide decisions about when to seek appropriate medical care.