



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, April 29, 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 Announced

As you are aware, our Health Officer along with the six others who ordered a shelter in place in mid-March today announced the extension of the orders through May 31. These are the key points:

There are three types of restrictions that were eased:

1. Small and large-scale construction is now permitted. Contractors will have to abide by social distancing protocols, found in the appendix of [the order](#). City inspectors will be monitoring compliance on site visits. The Planning Department and our Joint Information Center will be creating materials to help guide contractors navigate the process.
2. Outdoor businesses will be allowed to operate. They include businesses such as wholesale and retail nurseries. Independent landscapers or gardeners will also be able to resume work. It will not include restaurants or bars that have outdoor seating.
3. Some outdoor recreation activities will be permitted. People will have to limit contact to those within their own household. Sites such as skate parks or athletic fields will be allowed to re-open. We will be examining how to implement that in Berkeley without creating an environment for casual spread of the virus.

The resumptions of these low-risk activities are the result of the effectiveness of the Shelter-In-Place orders and the actions taken by people in our community and elsewhere. As part of this phase, Health Officers will also be looking at five indicators when considering future modifications to the shelter-in-place orders:

The indicators include:

- Whether the total number of cases in the community is flat or decreasing;
- Whether the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 is flat or decreasing;
- Whether there is an adequate supply of personal protective equipment for all health care workers;



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- Whether we are meeting the need for testing, especially for persons in vulnerable populations or those in high-risk settings or occupations; and
- Whether we have the capacity to investigate all COVID-19 cases and trace all of their contacts, isolating those who test positive and quarantining the people who may have been exposed.

As Dr. Hernandez stated in the announcement: “This impact of the virus has been hard for many of us, but we are now on a path for steady progress, which now allows some low-risk activities to return. This virus is still in our communities. We need everyone to shelter-in-place apart from the few exceptions – and wear a face covering when out.”

Resources

Four phases to reopen California's businesses and schools

Yesterday, Governor Newsom announced a [four-stage pandemic resilience roadmap](#) for modifying and ultimately ending stay home orders statewide:

1. Safety and preparedness: Everyone is staying at home or an essential worker.
2. Lower risk workplaces: Reopening lower risk workplaces such as non-essential manufacturing, schools, childcare facilities, and retail businesses for curbside pick-up.
3. Higher risk workplaces: Reopening higher risk workplaces such as hair salons, gyms, and religious services.
4. End of stay-at-home order: Ending the stay-at-home order and reopening concert venues, convention centers, and sporting events.

The Governor believes we are “weeks, not months” away from moving from Stage 1 to Stage 2.

Expanded State efforts to combat food insecurity

Today Governor Newsom announced [three new initiatives to mitigate food insecurity](#) resulting from COVID-19:

- Expansion of the Farm to Family Program, which facilitates direct produce donations from farmers to food banks by providing logistical support.
- CalFresh recipients will receive the maximum benefits for the month of May.



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- CalFresh benefits can now be used for online purchasing on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com). The State is urging supermarkets to join the program.