



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, May 4, 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.

Statewide restrictions easing

When it comes to state and local orders, the stricter rule will apply.

This framework is important to keep in mind when considering an announcement today by Governor Newsom. He plans to announce on Thursday that certain industries -- including some retail, manufacturing, and logistics businesses -- would be able to reopen as soon as Friday if they can meet the guidelines provided by the state.

Some examples of businesses that can open include bookstores, clothing stores, florists and sporting goods stores. Other Stage 2 sectors, such as offices and dine-in restaurants, will be part of a later Stage 2 opening. The announcement for Friday does not include offices, seated dining at restaurants, shopping malls or schools.

While the state will be moving from Stage 1 to Stage 2, counties, or in our case, the City of Berkeley, can choose to continue more restrictive measures in place based on local conditions, and the state expects some jurisdictions to keep their more robust stay at home orders in place beyond May 8.

Counties can also move more quickly through Stage 2, if they attest that they meet the state's readiness criteria. Counties must create and submit a readiness plan which the state will make publicly available.

Counties must meet criteria including demonstrating they have a low prevalence of COVID-19, that they meet testing and contact tracing criteria, that their health care system is prepared in case they see a sudden rise in cases, and that they have plans in place to protect vulnerable populations. The state will outline these criteria in the coming days.

Skate park reopens, athletic courts remain closed

Today, we [reopened the Berkeley Skate Park](#) at 711 Harrison, with new social distancing protocols in place. It will be open daily from noon to 8pm, with limited



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skaters allowed inside at one time. Skaters can [pre-register online](#) for one one-hour time slot per day.

Skate parks are allowed under the new shelter in place order, but any sports involving shared equipment, such as a ball, are still prohibited between people who don't live together. All City athletic courts will remain closed including basketball, tennis, pickleball, and volleyball courts; these activities are prohibited city-wide.

User testing begins on new website

Even as COVID-19 response dominates our operations, we continue to move forward on critical citywide projects including our website redesign. This week, we will begin the first round of user testing on our new website.

We've [asked community members](#) to help us ensure our new website is easy to use by becoming part of a new usability testing pool. Those who join will get periodic notifications of opportunities to help improve our online presence.

For the first round of testing, we'll invite fifty people to complete a series of high priority tasks on a prototype version of our new website. We'll continue to draw from this pool to get feedback leading up to the launch of our new website, and to help us continue to improve long afterwards.

In just one week, we've had 250 community members register. We want as broad a cross-section of our community to be represented as possible, so please share the invitation with your networks. It takes just a few minutes to [sign up online](#).