



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Tuesday, May 5, 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.

Construction resumes with new protections in place

We sent today a [community message clarifying rules for both small and large construction](#) under the Health Order that went into effect on Monday.

The new order mandates different requirements depending on whether the site is considered small or large. Large Construction Site requirements apply to:

- Residential projects of more than 10 units
- Commercial projects of more than 20,000 square feet of floor area
- Essential infrastructure, as defined in the order, that requires five or more workers at any time.

Small sites generally include all else.

The new requirements mandate that sites implement a number of procedures and safeguards to keep workers safe.

Our message also includes information on online processes we've created to allow people to apply for and receive permits, submit documents and revisions and schedule inspections. The message also includes information on how to report complaints.

Mental Health Survey

We posted a survey on our online forum, Berkeley Considers, asking community members to [weigh in on what kinds of mental health services they would like to see in our community](#).

Our Mental Health Division will use this input as one element in how we decide to use state Mental Health Services Act funds, which currently support a broad range of local prevention, early intervention, wellness and treatment services. In the past, this funding has supported:



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- A Homeless Outreach and Treatment Team, which provides outreach, supports and linkages for individuals who are homeless and have mental health needs
- the expansion of the Mobile Crisis Team, which uses mental health professionals to work alongside police officers during mental health crises
- the creation of a Transition Outreach Team that attempts to link everyone who has a mental health crisis to ongoing care
- high intensity treatment teams for both adults and children who have high levels of need
- a Mental Health Wellness Center that is open to all residents of Berkeley and Albany

Berkeley Mental Health will use the input received to develop a plan that will explain how we'll use our funding over the next three years. A draft plan will be available for a 30 day review and presented at a public hearing to the Mental Health Commission.

Resources

Mental health support hotlines

Many in our community are struggling with stress, anxiety, and feelings of depression stemming from COVID-19. Our mental health division reminds us that these feelings are normal, and has [advice on caring for our own emotional health](#) during this crisis.

These resources are available for those who need someone to talk to

- **California peer-run warm line:** 855-845-7515
Non-emergency number for those feeling anxiety or seeking emotional support.
- **24 hour crisis support line (Alameda County):** 800-273-8255
Training crisis counselors available 24/7 for those struggling with difficult life circumstances or uncomfortable thoughts and emotions.
- **Berkeley Mental Health crisis triage line:** (510) 981-5244
Experienced mental health professionals are available to support & resources Monday through Friday, 10am-5pm.