



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, May 7, 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.

Governor's announcement

Governor Newsom today [announced](#) the relaxation of some statewide rules, but these new rules don't affect the stricter local rules in place in Berkeley and our six county partners.

The new statewide rules allow certain businesses to begin moving into Phase 2 of the state's [framework for reopening](#) beginning Friday, May 8. This includes retailers such as bookstores, clothing stores, home and furnishing stores, and florists, with increased curbside pickup and delivery. Supply chains supporting these retailers (manufacturing and logistics) may also open. Before reopening, all facilities must:

1. Perform a detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan
2. Train employees on how to limit the spread of COVID-19, including how to screen themselves for symptoms and stay home if they have them
3. Implement individual control measures and screenings
4. Implement disinfecting protocols
5. Implement physical distancing guidelines

Detailed [industry guidelines](#) are available for seventeen industries, including: agriculture and livestock; auto dealerships; communications infrastructure; construction; delivery services; energy and utilities; food packing; hotels and lodging; life sciences; logistics and warehousing facilities; manufacturing; mining and logging; office workspaces; ports, public transit; real estate; and retail.

The state has also set up a mechanism to gather input on future industry guidance through the [California Recovery Roadmap survey](#). Also noted are specific higher-risk workplaces that are NOT in Stage 1 or Stage 2 of reopening, such as nail salons, bars, movie theaters, libraries, playgrounds, nightclubs, festivals, etc.



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Regional Statement

We and our six county partners around the Bay Area worked to share [a joint statement about the governor's announcement](#).

Our Health Officer and those around the region are examining local data. As conditions allow, they will be examining what rules can be relaxed so we don't inadvertently fuel a surge of cases.

Our region relaxed rules starting Monday May 4 on areas such as construction, outdoor businesses and some low-risk activities. Aligning together has helped us greatly in staving off a surge in cases.

A key section in today's announcement is this:

We will continue to study the indicators that tell us how the coronavirus is affecting our communities and amend the health orders as warranted in the best interest of community health. We share the urgency to reopen and restore our economies and our normal activities, and the equal importance of doing so in a way that is safe, responsible and does not cause a significant increase in serious illness and death, or overwhelm our healthcare delivery systems.

The coronavirus pandemic is still well underway. Our communities will be dealing with it for a long time to come. We expect outbreaks to continue, especially among vulnerable populations. That is why we are building strong systems to protect our communities into the future. We will continue to watch the indicators with regard to sufficient testing, contact tracing and personal protective equipment. We will monitor new cases, hospitalizations and the health care system's capacity to handle a surge of patients. We will continue to work with our community and business leaders to accomplish careful, measured progress that allows us to maintain our gains as we move forward to further reopening and better times ahead.



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City of Berkeley recognized for excellence in crisis communications

The City of Berkeley has received a [CAPIO](#) Award of Distinction, and been named a finalist for the Excellence in Public Communications Award in crisis communications response for our work during last year's public safety power shutoffs.

These awards recognize the best in quality and achievement in public sector communications at all levels of government across California. Our EOC Joint Information Center team created a steady flow of action oriented messaging last October which kept community members informed, safe, and reassured during a time of crisis. I am pleased to see this excellent work so broadly recognized.