



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, May 8, 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.

Clarifying rules for businesses

It can be confusing to sort out rules for merchants and the shelter-in-place. We've tried to make it as simple as possible:

We've created a website specifically for [merchants seeking business guidance](#). It includes:

- A [fillable compliance checklist](#), so merchants can quickly determine what they need to do
- A [fillable social distancing protocol](#), so merchants can quickly post one of their required forms
- downloadable signage on face covering requirements, in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- downloadable signage on [COVID-19 precautions](#)
- additional recommendations by industry, such as for:
 - [Grocery stores](#)
 - [Restaurants and food delivery](#)
 - [Essential Retail](#)

Starting today, some parts of California have begun moving into stage 2 of the [statewide resilience roadmap](#), which allows for the gradual reopening of lower-risk workplaces, including curbside pickup for non-essential retail.

When announcing these changes, State officials stressed that stricter restrictions are still needed in many parts of California, including the Bay Area, and that readiness to reopen must be assessed on a regional basis. While we have made significant progress toward flattening our curve, we still have work to do to ensure we will be able to contain COVID-19 growth as rules in our community are eased.

With differing rules around the region and state about shelter-in-place, confusion is to be expected. Early this morning, we sent [a message about our specific shelter in place rules and resources](#) to our 60,000 subscribers across the City's communication channels reminding community members that Berkeley's shelter in



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place order has not changed. When local and state rules on shelter in place differ, the stricter of the two applies. The Office of Economic Development also pushed out the message on merchant-specific networks.

Vote-By-Mail ballots for November 2020 election

To ensure that people can exercise their right to vote in a safe and accessible way, [Governor Newsom announced](#) that vote-by-mail ballots will be mailed to all registered voters for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

People who may need access to in-person voting opportunities – including individuals with disabilities, individuals who speak languages other than English, individuals experiencing homelessness, and others – will still be able to access in-person voting opportunities. Postage is not required to mail a vote-by-mail ballot.

The Governor also mentioned there will be a great need for [poll workers](#) in Alameda County for the November election, as many of the workers in a normal election year are retired people who may need to shelter at home due to COVID-19.

Resources

State guidelines for eventual reopening

Although Berkeley and the Bay Area region have not yet met the local indicators for relaxing the shelter-in-place orders, businesses can review the [State's guidelines](#) as a resource to start thinking about eventual reopening (such as a plan to train employees, disinfecting protocols, and distancing requirements). People can also give input on future industry guidance from the state by completing the [California Recovery Roadmap survey](#).

CDC Resource: Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes

As we began to plan and prepare for reopening parts of our community, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a [guide for cleaning and disinfecting](#) public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and homes. Thinking about these strategies in advance will allow the community to better prepare for eventual reopening.