



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, May 14, 2020

City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley provided this update on the City of Berkeley's COVID19 response to the City Council. The reports, which are issued most weekdays, can be viewed at cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates.

Blood drive June 17

Someone in the US needs blood on an average of every two seconds, but blood donations have dramatically decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help meet the increased need for donations, our Fire Department has collaborated with BUSD and the American Red Cross to organize a [blood drive in Berkeley](#) next month:

Wednesday, June 17 9am-3pm
Berkeley High School, Donahue Gym
2224 Milvia Street (at Bancroft)

Appointments are open now and can be [scheduled online](#). All blood types are needed. We're encouraging any healthy, eligible donors to sign up, even if they have never donated before. Volunteer donors are the only source of lifesaving blood for trauma and cancer patients, accident and burn victims, people with blood disorders, and more.

City staff have been in close communication with the Red Cross to advise on safety protocols to keep donors and workers safe, including new screening, cleaning, and physical distancing measures.

PPE donations still needed

We're grateful for the continued generosity of the Berkeley community. In the six weeks since we started soliciting PPE donations, 282 people have offered to help - including 12 new responses this week alone. We've received:

- 801 gloves
- 658 hand made masks
- 2,471 N-95s
- 500 head covers
- Thousands of surgical masks
- 92 homemade face shields



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We're using these donations to support our first responders and front-line City staff, and distribute them to local healthcare, skilled nursing, and long term care facilities as needed.

We continue to work diligently to coordinate the donation program. Anyone who has supplies to spare - including thermometers, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfectants - can let us know by completing our [online donation form](#). An EOC staff member will contact them to arrange acceptance of their donation.

State budget revision proposal to legislature

Today, Governor Newsom [submitted his 2020-21 May budget revision](#) proposal to the legislature. The State will need to close a budget gap of more than \$54 billion due to the economic crisis spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Governor proposes to balance the budget by canceling planned new initiatives, drawing down reserves, borrowing from special funds, and negotiating with collective bargaining units to achieve reduced pay of approximately 10 percent, and to impose reductions if an agreement cannot be reached. Nearly all state services will be reduced, but the most painful cuts will only be triggered in the absence of federal aid.