



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Tuesday, May 26, 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.

Outreach to our unhoused

Our EOC keeps care for the unhoused at the forefront of our work.

That work includes personal contact. Last week, Berkeley Mental Health outreach teams made seven visits to five encampments over the course of two days. During these visits, the team interacted with 85 people and provided 51 masks, 45 hand sanitizers, 124 bags of food, and 79 water bottles.

Our work has a clinical aspect that is key to COVID-19 response. The outreach teams' assess people for potential COVID-19 testing, which helps us more quickly identify cases and take action to limit the spread.

Our work includes new services. As part of our expanded shower program, Willard Pool received 223 total visits from May 18 through May 21. We averaged 56 people per day. Of those, 85% were men and 15% were women. At West Campus Pool, we received 91 total visits from May 18 through May 22, averaging 18 people per day. Of those, 93% were men.

Our work includes identifying needs and then finding solutions. Needs can be as simple -- and yet as critical -- as water. Recognizing the need for sustainable water sources, Berkeley Mental Health worked with our EOC to have spigots installed at two locations near encampments -- one near Seabreeze and the other near the Gilman encampment.

State releases reopening guidelines for salons, barbershops, and places of worship

Governor Newsom signaled early movement into Stage 3 of the [state resilience roadmap](#) by announcing that, for local jurisdictions that see that their data can support such movement, hair salons and barbershops can begin to operate in counties approved for accelerated reporting. In counties that allow it, places of worship can now reopen with modifications, except in jurisdictions with more strict orders.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

The [guidance for places of worship](#) includes limiting attendance to 25% of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower and discontinuing singing and other group recitation, citing "increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets."

In addition to standard COVID-19 prevention practices like physical distancing, face coverings, and cleaning protocols, [guidance for salons and barbershops](#) also recommends staggering appointments to reduce reception congestion, ensuring adequate time for cleaning and sanitation between each visit, suspending walk-in appointments, and ensuring that workers do not see multiple customers at once.

The City of Berkeley and our six partner jurisdictions loosened restrictions on Mar. 4 and then, on Mar. 18 based on progress on caseloads, hospitalizations and other indicators. It will take at least two weeks -- the full incubation period for COVID-19 - - to see how these changed rules and the resulting behavior impact caseloads.

Nonetheless, the Governor's guidance provides a framework that businesses can use to plan for new rules that would guide their re-opening.

Resources

Capturing history: sharing our COVID-19 experiences with future Californians

The California State Archives is asking Californians to document their COVID-19 experiences so future generations can better understand what it was like to live through the pandemic. The community memory project will serve as a critical primary source for future generations seeking to understand how COVID-19 impacted residents throughout the state. Submissions [submitted through an online form](#) will become part of the State Archives' historical collections and may be featured on the [California COVID-19 Archive](#) webpage.

CDC Resource: Travel

For some, essential travel during the COVID-19 pandemic may be unavoidable. The CDC is continually updating [guidance for people who need to travel](#) domestically or internationally. It covers the risks of traveling, how to reduce the chances of getting sick, and what to do when returning home from other countries.