



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, May 27, 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](http://cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates).*

## **Testing at Skilled Nursing Facilities in Berkeley**

We are on an accelerated pace to test all residents and staff, regardless of symptoms, at Berkeley's five skilled nursing facilities and one long-term care facility by June 4.

Two facilities have been tested completely. Of the 308 people tested, the only two positives are the ones we reported to you about last week. Testing of the remaining 407 residents and staff of the other facilities began today at a third site. As part of this process, residents will be tested by a combination of Lifelong, Kaiser Permanente, and City staff. Employees will be tested at the Berkeley test site.

City staff are also working to provide fit testing and training of nursing staff at each facility so they can test the residents themselves, in collaboration with local healthcare providers and City staff. After June 4, 2020, new California Department of Public Health recommendations require each skilled nursing facility to attest monthly that 100% of staff and 100% of residents have been tested for COVID-19.

This close work with these facilities has been years in the making, but has intensified in the past few months as Berkeley Public Health and the facilities have developed protocols, practices and other preparations for potential COVID-19 cases. The goal is to develop procedures that limit potential exposures -- such as the ending of visits -- and to also act quickly to identify cases and limit spread through identification, investigation, quarantine and isolation.

City of Berkeley staff have been meeting weekly and providing individualized consultation with these facilities to support outbreak prevention and management.

## **Childcare and Summer Camps**

We put out a community message today to help parents, childcare providers and summer camps navigate the rules for care under the latest shelter-in-place order.



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For parents, we conveyed that as work is now open to a broad range of people, so are childcare and camps options. Part of the communications we have maintained online is [a detailed list of all businesses that are allowed to operate](#).

For childcare providers, we outlined the main rules established to minimize spread of COVID-19:

1. Children must be placed in stable groups of no more than 12 children, with the same children grouped together each day.
2. Groups of children should stay intact, with no children moving in or out of the group, for at least three weeks.
3. If there is more than one group of children at a facility, each group should be in a separate room and groups should not mix with each other.
4. Caretakers should remain solely with one group of children.

For summer camp providers, the City developed [a detailed guidance for summer camps](#) on how to adapt programming to support social distancing requirements.

Camps will need to:

- Eliminate large group activities like campfires and sing-alongs
- Stagger activities so two groups aren't in the same place at the same time
- Encourage individual activities like painting, crafts, and building with blocks
- Do as many activities outdoors as possible

Feel free to share [this community message](#) on your networks.

## Resources

### Online portal for locating childcare

Workers seeking childcare options can use a state portal to find safe, reliable and accessible providers. [MyChildCare.ca.gov](https://www.mychildcare.ca.gov) offers interactive maps of available qualified licensed providers based on location, child age, capacity and type of care. The tool is available in English and Spanish.



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## **Keeping children healthy while school is out**

The CDC has helpful [advice for caretakers of children](#) during COVID-19. The guidance offers tips on teaching and reinforcing everyday healthy behaviors, keeping children active and socially connected, and helping children cope with stress.