



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, June 1, 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).*

## **Citywide curfew starting at 8pm**

As you know, today I proclaimed a nighttime curfew in Berkeley. Everyone across the city will be required to stay indoors for two nights, starting tonight, June 1. The curfew lasts from 8pm to 5am.

This extraordinary step was necessary to respond to a series of intensive, coordinated, nighttime attempts to commit commercial burglaries, vandalism, and other unlawful acts throughout the city. This ongoing threat has stretched our resources. The entire Berkeley Police force has been deployed for three consecutive nights, arresting many and thwarting dozens of attempted crimes. Yet, some looting continued.

The curfew will better position our City to protect our community members, especially merchants who are already struggling.

The curfew provides a narrow number of exemptions.

- a police officer, firefighter, or other City employee engaged in authorized emergency operations
- traveling to or from their workplace
- members of the media
- experiencing homelessness

We sent a [message announcing the curfew](#) to community members this evening.

## **Helping merchants prepare**

As vandalism and commercial burglaries threaten businesses nationwide, across the region, our Office of Economic Development is helping local businesses prepare and protect themselves. Today we distributed a message through our partners in the business community and [Economic Development newsletter](#) advising merchants on precautions for securing their space:

- Bring inside and secure any that could be used as projectiles (sign, chairs, tables, trash bins).



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- Look for objects being stored outside that could be used as weapons. If you see any, remove them or call the Berkeley Police Department non-emergency number (510) 981-5900.
- Verify security cameras are working.

Anyone who witnesses a criminal act should move somewhere safe and report it to the Berkeley Police Department at 911 or (510) 981-5911.

## **Alameda County curfew**

The Alameda County Sheriff has also [proclaimed a local emergency](#) and issued a [countywide curfew order](#), citing *“numerous acts of violence...which has created conditions that are or likely to be beyond the control of local resources and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat.”*

The curfew lasts from 8pm until 5am. It takes effect tonight, June 1 and remains in effect until 5am on Friday, June 5.

## **AC Transit suspends nighttime service**

In response to the Alameda County curfew, AC Transit is [suspending all service at 7:30pm](#) every night through June 5. Service will resume after 5am the following morning.

While BART has not announced any changes to service, several stations have been closed each of the last three nights. Riders should check [bart.gov](#) for status updates before embarking on a trip.

## **Resources**

### **Governor Newsom statement on demonstrations**

Governor Newsom issued a [statement on the statewide demonstrations](#), saying *“Over the last few days, we have seen millions of people lift their voices in anger, rightfully outraged at how systemic racism is allowed to persist...Every person who has raised their voice should be heard. I want to thank all those who helped protect human life last night and today - from community members who exercised their right to protest peacefully and encouraged others to do the same, to the law enforcement officers who faced what were, at times, challenging conditions.”*

He also warned that the state is actively monitoring violent extremist organizations ahead of tonight's events.



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## **Fighting discrimination during COVID-19**

California's strength is in its diversity. Discrimination and hate have no place in our society, let alone during a public health emergency. Unchecked, they can lead to denial of healthcare, violation of civil rights, and physical violence. The state's COVID-19 website features resources on [legal protections from discrimination and harassment](#) for every person in California, regardless of immigrant status.