



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, June 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.

New COVID-19 testing site

Today, we launched a new COVID-19 testing site in partnership with the State of California. Testing is free and available to anyone, regardless of whether they have symptoms. Community members can schedule appointments online at lhi.care/covidtesting.

On the first day of operations, the site performed 59 tests, including group testing of Berkeley Bowl employees, arranged by our Office of Economic Development.

With the potential to administer up to 132 tests daily, this site shifts us into a new phase in our COVID-19 response. Operating at full capacity, this site alone would put Berkeley more than halfway to our goal of 245 tests on Berkeley residents per day. We are currently averaging around 65 tests per day through other sources, including the City's testing site in west Berkeley.

Increased testing capacity is critical to containing COVID-19 because it allows us more quickly respond to cases, identify contacts, and ensure those who have been exposed can be isolated.

I am grateful to the quick mobilization of staff and the support of our Mayor and Council to expand testing in Berkeley. We sent a message to community members [announcing the new test site](#) this afternoon.

Testing blocks available to merchants, community groups

Our Office of Economic Development is coordinating appointment blocks at the OptumServe site for local businesses who want to get employees tested.

Merchants interested in arranging appointments for their staff should email loedmailbox@cityofberkeley.info with "group testing" in the subject line, and include the approximate number of employees to be tested in their message.

Community organizations who would like to block out times for their employees to be tested can email ready@cityofberkeley or call (510) 981-5329 for assistance.



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Resources

CDC Resource: Cleaning and disinfecting your home

Expanded testing will allow us to identify many cases we would not have otherwise caught, which makes our whole community safer. People who are asymptomatic can still spread the disease to others, some of whom may become severely ill. Much COVID-19 spread happens within households. The CDC has guidance on [cleaning and disinfecting your home](#) if a household member is sick.

Caring for yourself or a family member if infected

Many people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms and will need to recover at home. We encourage residents to prepare for this disease to touch their households by reviewing recommendations from Health Officer Dr. Lisa B. Hernandez on [how to care for yourself or a family member](#) when sick.