



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, June 15, 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).*

## **Increases in testing, and testing of Berkeleyans**

We are deeply grateful for the quick, intensive work by City staff to launch the state-funded test site last Monday at the City's MLK Jr. Youth Services center. The resounding success has many impacts.

First, the success. Every day last week was fully booked, thanks in part to outreach we did to the community and our merchants. On the first day, the site tested 59 Berkeley Bowl employees thanks to coordination between our testing task force, our EOC Joint Information Center and the Office of Economic Development.

As a state-funded site, anyone can get tested -- regardless of whether they live or work in Berkeley. Those who work in Berkeley but don't live in the City do not count toward our regional indicators' goals for testing. Nonetheless, testing those working in the City helps us to more quickly identify potential cases and reduce further exposures in our community.

On the site's first day, 25 percent of those tested lived or worked in Berkeley. As a result of our outreach, that figure rose to 81 percent by Thursday. This increased testing allows us to more quickly identify cases in our community, which allows our Communicable Disease unit to move quickly on contact tracing and reduce spread in our community.

## **Testing Becomes More Dynamic, Reaching Target Communities**

The success of a dedicated site in one location gives flexibility to the City-run site. Our goal is to make that test site more mobile, giving us more power in reaching target populations. That started today.

Our mobile site went to Strawberry Creek Lodge, a community of 150 senior households. Our plan is to offer tests to everyone, regardless of symptoms.

Over time, the plan is to do outreach to other targeted populations, including African Americans and Latinos.



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## Testing outreach flyers in English and Spanish

We've posted [downloadable posters in English and Spanish](#) to our website encouraging community members to get tested for COVID-19. I encourage you to share these resources widely with your networks.

## Homeless Outreach

Active outreach and support to people who are unhoused in Berkeley is a regular part of our work.

Berkeley Mental Health Outreach Teams made nine visits to nine encampments last week and reached out to 102 people. The teams provided 178 bottles of water, 128 cloth and disposable face coverings, 88 hand sanitizers, 54 hot meals, and 109 food bags, which contain non-perishable high-caloric items such as tuna, peanuts, protein bars, peanut butter crackers, apple sauce, canned fruits and vegetables. Toilet paper is also included in these bags for sanitary purposes.

Last week, the Willard Recreation Center site received a total of 268 clients, an average of 38 clients per day. The West Campus site served 111 total clients, an average of 19 per day.

## Resources

### Governor Newsom's update on the status of COVID-19 in California

Today [Governor Newsom spoke](#) regarding the current COVID-19 numbers across California and the state's ability to respond to the virus. Regarding a possible second spike, Governor Newsom referenced the Spanish Flu of 1918 and said, "As we mix, as we reopen, inevitably, we're going to see an increase in the total number of cases. It's our capacity to address that, that is so foundational, and to make sure we're prepared for spikes."

Highlights of the report include:

- Positivity rate is 4.5% and is stable over the last two weeks
- Hospitalization numbers are encouraging and fairly stable
- ICU cases have been flat over the last two weeks
- The state has 73,867 hospital beds; 3,103 beds are occupied by COVID-19 patients



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- An additional 52,745 beds are available for surges
- 11,652 ventilators are available.
- The state is on track to administer more than 60,000 tests per day by the end of the month.

The Governor stressed that everyone needs to wear face coverings, stay at least six feet apart, and wash their hands often. He also emphasized the importance of local-decision making about when to move through the attestation process, saying “We recognize the imperative of advancing a paradigm of focus at the local level, working with health officers, working with local elected officials through this attestation process, monitoring that process, acutely providing technical assistance, providing support, human resource, and physical support, as needed.”

## **Overview of the state's actions relating to COVID-19**

With information changing rapidly, it can be difficult to keep track of developments related to COVID-19. Governor Newsom has provided a detailed list of over 100 [actions the state has taken to address the pandemic](#) from March to May.