



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, June 18, 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 Health Order: Retail, religious services, outdoor dining and fitness

Health Officer Dr. Lisa B. Hernandez issued a [new health order](#) today that further relaxes restrictions on allowed activities. Starting Friday, Berkeleyans will be able to dine with others in their “social bubble” at restaurants with outdoor seating, go inside retail stores, attend religious ceremonies, and participate in non-contact outdoor fitness classes.

Newly re-opened businesses must adopt measures to limit spread of COVID-19. Retail stores will be limited to no more than 50 percent of normal occupancy indoors and must ensure that patrons and staff have enough space to stay 6 feet apart. Restaurants must arrange tables to ensure at least six feet between people in different parties. Mosques, churches, temples and other places of worship must limit ceremonies to 100 attendees or 25 percent of the building's capacity, whichever is less.

It's essential to remember that the virus has not gone away and everyone must remain vigilant. The safest place to be is still in your home - especially for those who are at higher risk of serious illness. Everyone should continue to take precautions, including:

- Washing hands frequently with soap and water - or hand sanitizer as a last resort
- Staying six feet away from people you don't live with
- Wearing a face covering when outside your home

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



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Outdoor retail and dining permits

Our Office of Economic Development has worked rapidly to expand options and streamline permitting processes for restaurants and retailers wishing to engage in outdoor commerce or expand outdoor dining areas in the public right-of-way. Information on the application process and different types of available permits are available on a newly created [outdoor commerce webpage](#).

Economic Development staff are available by appointment for pre-application site visits to provide feedback on plans and help businesses determine which option is best for them. Business owners can schedule an appointment by email oedmailbox@cityofberkeley.info with the subject line "Outdoor commerce site visit request."

Californians statewide now required to wear face coverings outside the home

The California Department of Public Health released updated guidance today [requiring everyone to wear a face covering](#) in common and public indoor spaces, and outdoors when distancing is not possible. Announcing the new guidance, Governor Newsom said "Science shows that face coverings and masks work. They are critical to keeping those around you safe, keeping businesses open and restarting our economy."

This statewide requirement supplements stricter mandates already in place here in Berkeley and across Alameda County. A [summary of statewide rules](#) is available on the California COVID-19 website, while [information on Berkeley-specific requirements](#) and recommendations can be found on the City's COVID-19 website.

Resources

COVID-19 relief measures from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has implemented numerous regulatory relief measures during COVID-19 to assist California's 50,000 small and large businesses facing severe economic challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Some of these measures include temporarily allowing:

- Virtual wine tasting
- Free delivery of alcohol to consumers
- Extended alcoholic beverage delivery hours
- Extended credit transactions beyond 30 days
- Alcohol transactions through pass out windows or slide out trays
- Distilleries to make hand sanitizers and disinfectants

The ABC continues to expand regulatory relief measures. Licensees can see the latest updates, read COVID-19 FAQs, and sign up for alerts on the ABC website: abc.ca.gov/law-and-policy/coronavirus19/

CDC Resource: Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes

As businesses across our community begin to reopen, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a [guide for cleaning and disinfecting](#) public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and homes. Businesses not yet permitted to resume operations can review these strategies now to help prepare for eventual reopening.