



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, June 22, 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).*

## **Bay Area Health Officers' Indicators to Contain COVID-19**

Berkeley's Health Officer as well as the six jurisdictions we have been partnering with created [five indicators](#) to measure the virus' movements as well as the development of public health infrastructure. This is where we stand as of Friday June 19:

### **Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing**

Current status in Alameda County:

- Number of cases identified is increasing.
- Number of hospitalized patients has been decreasing in recent days, but it has successively increased from June 5 and June 12.

*Goals not currently met.*

### **Indicator 2: Sufficient Hospital Capacity to meet community needs**

Success criteria: No more than 50% of patients in staffable non-surge hospital beds in Alameda County are COVID-19 positive

*Goal currently met.*

### **Indicator 3: Sufficient Testing Capacity**

Success criteria: Sufficient COVID-19 viral detection tests are being conducted each day through private and public sites. The goal for Berkeley would be 245 tests per day.

- Last week saw an average of 142 tests per day of Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested - private hospitals, labs or our City site. This represents a 46 percent increase over the previous week.

*Goal not met.*



## **Indicator 4: Sufficient Disease Containment (case investigation, contact tracing, and isolation/quarantine)**

Success criteria:

- 90% of all cases are reached and contacts identified - currently at 96%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely - currently at 94%
- 90% of all contacts identified - currently at 93%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine - currently at 93%

Disease containment is a critical tool in this phase of the pandemic and reflects significantly increased staffing for contact tracing that we have added since the start of this pandemic.

*Goal currently met.*

## **Indicator 5: Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment**

Success criteria:

- At least 30-day supply of PPE for all health care providers - **Goal Met**
- No hospitals, clinic, skilled nursing facility, other long term care facility, or first responder agency is struggle with obtaining PPE to submit a request for assistance - **Goal Not Met**
- None have needed to submit a resource request for assistance in obtaining PPE to EOC in the last 14 days - **Goal Not Met**

*Overall Goal not currently met.*

The status can signal progress or, if conditions worsen, could lead to tightening, as has happened in places around the world. The three main categories that have been used to allow increased activities in Berkeley and the rest of Alameda County have been cases, hospitalizations and hospital capacity.

## **Mobile Testing to Reach Vulnerable Populations**

The EOC Testing Branch went mobile to multiple locations this week to test some of Berkeley's most vulnerable for COVID-19. Field testing locations this week included a senior living facility, people with disabilities and one of our skilled nursing facilities.



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On Monday and Tuesday, the team tested 87 senior citizens living at Strawberry Creek Lodge. On Wednesday and Thursday, the mobile testing unit tested 14 Berkeley individuals living with disabilities.

By sending testing to our skilled nursing facilities, we are able to test more staff -- the majority of whom take public transit to get to work. This work began today and we'll be continuing this work by testing all six skilled nursing and long-term care facilities in monthly testing of their staff, until each facility has the capacity to do this independently.

## **Expanded Hours of MLK, Jr. Youth Services Center**

The state-funded test site expanded hours last week and was open from 8:30am-4pm. Through Thursday, the site at 1730 Oregon Street ran a total of 325 tests this week and 81 percent of those live or work in Berkeley. Another 91 people were scheduled for Friday.

Hours expanded at the site starting today, Monday June 22, to run from 8am to 8pm, with a maximum capacity of 132 tests per day.

## **Supportive Services to Help Disease Containment**

As part of the City's disease investigation work, contacts are assessed whether they have food, utilities, rent, legal, health and mental health needs to safely isolate or quarantine.

These individual needs assessments are embedded in the Disease Containment Branch's case and contact interview process. So far:

- More than 50 cases and close contacts have been linked to needed resources.
- More than 10 grocery deliveries have been provided directly from our team.

Community partners in this effort include the Berkeley Food Network, Berkeley Mutual Aid, Meals on Wheels, and the support of City staff. The team has also secured a few scholarships through Latinos Outdoors to help pay for utility bills, and connected some families to East Bay Community Law Center for COVID-19 housing retention grants. Fortunately, we have not had anyone in crisis, but have provided parentline and other warm lines if people are open to some support.



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## Resources

### **Learn about clinical studies related to COVID-19**

Our understanding of COVID-19 is rapidly evolving as scientists around the world study this new virus. The National Library of Medicine provides information on [over 2,000 clinical studies about COVID-19 worldwide](#), which can be sorted and filtered by county, state, or topic. Many of the studies listed are recruiting volunteers. Those interested in volunteering to participate in a study should first talk to their healthcare provider to learn about [risks and potential benefits](#).

### **State of California transparency efforts: COVID-19 contracts**

To improve transparency in pandemic response efforts, the state is now publishing many contracts online. Copies of all contracts valued at over \$250,000 that have been entered into as part of COVID-19 response can be viewed at [covid19.ca.gov/contracts/](https://covid19.ca.gov/contracts/)