



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, June 24, 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.

Outreach to the Unhoused

Our emergency response to this pandemic includes personal outreach to the unhoused.

Last week, Berkeley Mental Health Outreach Teams completed 17 visits to 12 different encampments and other locations. During these visits, the team talked to 269 people, each of whom was provided with COVID-19 information. In addition, the teams provided 173 disposable masks, 258 food bags, 117 hot meals, 341 water bottles, and performed 138 COVID-19 assessments and 3 tests.

Our work has a clinical aspect that is key to COVID-19 response. The outreach teams' assess people for potential COVID-19 testing, which helps us more quickly identify, test and support people who might be COVID-19 positive. This supports vulnerable people and limits the virus's spread.

Many people continue to come to our expanded shower program. A total of 144 people came to Willard Pool, for an average of 36 people per day. Of those, 19% were women and 81% were men. A total of 118 total clients came to the West Campus Shower Program for an average of 16 people per day. Of those, 83% were men and 17% were women.

Great Plates

We know that those over 65 and people with chronic health conditions are particularly vulnerable to serious COVID-19 illness. Even when we don't offer services directly, we look for ways to support those individuals through our communications.

Even as more activities are permitted, those most vulnerable should stay home as much as possible. The Great Plates Delivered Program makes it easier to do so by allowing eligible older adults to get up to 3 meals a day delivered to their home from local restaurants.



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People can apply at <https://acgreatplates.acgov.org>.

The federal and state-funded program is being administered through Alameda County and it lasts through July 10. More information can be found in [our community message about Great Plates](#).

Grab and go lunches for seniors

Our Aging Services Division has further expanded meal services for seniors during COVID-19 with a new weekly [grab & go lunch program](#). Registered participants will receive five frozen meals per week, picked up on Tuesdays at the South Berkeley Senior Center. The program is open to anyone living in Berkeley over 60 years old. Advance registration is required by calling (510) 981-5170 or emailing seniors@cityofberkeley.info.

Resources

Financial resources for older adults

Older adults may have unique financial concerns during the pandemic, including being targeted by scammers, experiencing separation from caregivers who help manage their money, or facing tough choices prior to and during retirement. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's [resources to help older adults during COVID-19](#) features advice on avoiding scams, mobile banking, and planning finances for an uncertain future.

Printable COVID-19 activity guide for older adults

The California Department of Aging has published a COVID-19 activity guide for older adults, titled *Feeling Good and Staying Connected*. The guide provides tips, tricks, and tools to help seniors access learning opportunities, maintain physical health, connect with friends and family, and discover ways to stay calm and positive during unsettling times. It's available for download in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), and [Traditional Chinese](#).