



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Thursday, July 2, 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.

Support for the unhoused

Direct outreach to unhoused community members continues to be a core element of our pandemic response. This week, Berkeley Mental Health Outreach Teams completed 18 visits to 14 different encampments and other locations. During these visits, the team performed 11 COVID-19 assessments and provided:

- 149 hot meals
- 122 food bags
- 187 water bottles
- 83 masks
- 25 hand sanitizers

This fiscal year through the end of May more than \$126,000 has been spent to remove over 100 tons of unwanted debris from encampments.

Four more households moved into respite sites

This week, four additional households moved into our respite sites, bringing the total to 21 individuals currently occupying the trailers and house. The house is now fully occupied. Four trailer spaces remain open - we anticipate that we will fill these shortly with three referrals from Berkeley outreach teams and 1 referral from Cal outreach.

Expanded testing continues

Yesterday, a combined 236 people were tested at the Optum test site on Oregon Street and the City of Berkeley test site in West Berkeley. 76% of these individuals live or work in Berkeley.

The EOC Testing Branch continues to use a strong equity lens in their targeted testing with Berkeley-based community organizations. Today, the team tested congregation members from McGee Baptist Church. Next week, they will host testing for community members from the [Multicultural Institute](#), Berkeley Pines Care Center, and the [Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement](#).



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Spanish language webinar

Last Sunday, the City partnered with Latinos Unidos de Berkeley to host a Spanish-language webinar on COVID-19. Participants heard from Health Officer Dr. Lisa Hernandez, EOC Testing Branch Coordinator Tanya Bustamante, and Berkeley Public Health nurse Elisa Gallegos-Jackson. Feedback from our partners and participants showed this effort was well-received.

You can view the [webinar recording](#) online and find additional materials on our new [Spanish-language COVID-19 resources webpage](#).

Building on this success, another Spanish webinar on COVID-19 is scheduled for Sunday, July 26 to address questions and concerns from our Spanish-speaking community. Email Latinos Unidos to register: latinosunidosberk@gmail.com.

Signs placed in parks

Look for new signage in Berkeley parks reminding people to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 while out enjoying nature. These were created by our EOC and distributed throughout the city by Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront staff.

You can download and print these signs (and many others!) for yourself from our [COVID-19 outreach library](#).



Regional Health Officers urge everyone to stay home and stay safe from COVID-19 on the 4th of July

With COVID-19 spreading rapidly in many Bay Area neighborhoods, [Health Officers across the region](#) urge residents to protect themselves and the community by celebrating from home this holiday weekend.

We've also sent a [message to the community](#) reminding everyone that all fireworks are not allowed in Berkeley. Due to the dry grasses in the Berkeley hills, we have



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particular concerns about fires from fireworks that are not handled and monitored by professionals. Instead, we're asking people to celebrate in new and different ways that don't involve large gatherings or fire hazards.

Resources

New restrictions on reopening announced ahead of the July 4th weekend

Yesterday, Governor Newsom announced that effective immediately, certain counties must close all bars, some [beach parking](#), and certain indoor operations including dine-in restaurants, entertainment centers, and museums due to the risk of COVID-19 infection. This applies to counties that have been on the [County Monitoring List](#) for 3 consecutive days. These closures will remain in place for at least 3 weeks. Governor Newsom also recommended that these counties cancel their 4th of July fireworks celebrations. Of the 19 affected counties, nearby counties include Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Solano.

Given that the state is slowing reopening measures, Dr. Hernandez has determined the City of Berkeley will consider reopening measures in 4-6 week intervals instead of the previous 2-4 week intervals.

Statewide "Wear a Mask" public awareness campaign in response to COVID-19 case surge

As COVID-19 cases rise throughout the state and in advance of the Fourth of July weekend, Governor Newsom today [announced the "Wear A Mask" public awareness campaign](#) encouraging face coverings – one of the best ways people can protect themselves and others from the virus. The campaign is taking an aggressive approach to slowing the spread of COVID-19, which will save lives and allow the economy to reopen. The campaign, which will continue until at least the end of the year, will kick off in English and Spanish and then expand into other languages later this month.

"We all have a responsibility to slow the spread. It is imperative – and required – that Californians protect each other by wearing masks and practicing physical distancing when in public so we can fully reopen our economy," said Governor Newsom. "We all need to stand up, be leaders, show we care and get this done."



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The campaign will begin with a statewide push ahead of the holiday weekend. In the coming weeks, key components include:

- Broadcast and radio PSAs
- Billboards and outdoor advertisements
- Shareable [social media content](#) with key messages on why and how to wear a mask
- Focus on those who have been disproportionately harmed by the pandemic, particularly Black and Latinx communities
- Messages will be translated into seven languages and delivered by trusted messengers