



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, July 17, 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](https://cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates).*

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

Our [COVID-19 indicators weekly dashboard](#) is available 24/7, and it shows detailed information everyone can explore. We will maintain an official record that's easy to share with the public through a weekly Council update. This is where we stand today:

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

Current status:

- Number of cases identified in Berkeley is increasing. There were 132 new cases in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County is increasing, with an increase of 18 people over the last 14 days.

*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 is 245 tests per day, giving an effective lens into the workings of the virus in our community.

- Over the last two weeks, we have seen an average of 275 tests per day of Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested -- private hospitals, labs or our City site.



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*Goal currently 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 71%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 69%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 82%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 81%

Disease containment is a critical tool in this phase of the pandemic and reflects significantly increased staffing for contact tracing. This allows us to see how quickly we move to isolate or quarantine people -- essential tasks in limiting the spread.

One tool to help in this area is that this week we onboarded five staff through the California Department of Public Health.

*Goals currently not 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.*

Our ability to meet these indicators can signal progress or, if conditions worsen, could lead to tightening, as we are seeing happen in neighboring counties and across the State.



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## Testing continues to rise while targeting vulnerable populations

Our testing sites performed a total 739 tests last week. Of those, 64.5 percent live or work in Berkeley.

Our mobile testing unit continues to target vulnerable populations, such as skilled nursing facilities and senior living complexes. The mobile unit conducted 210 tests this week.

*Note:* The state-run OPTUM site continues to face a test kit shortage and a delay of reporting test results. They are not currently taking additional drop-ins beyond the number to compensate for no show appointment.

## Disease Containment

The Disease Containment Branch continues to help manage various outbreaks across the City of Berkeley, primarily in congregate settings, and inform individuals of their test results. This week, the team provided notifications to over 120 people and provided multiple consultations to assist with worksite exposures.

Staff continue to be onboarded into the Disease Containment Branch to support these efforts as the need increases.

## Statewide pandemic plan for learning and safe schools

Today [Governor Newsom announced](#) the state's plan for learning and safe schools ahead of the 2020–2021 school year, as the California Department of Public Health issued a framework for when and how schools should reopen for in-person instruction. The plan centers on five key areas:

### 1. Safe in-person school based on local health data

Schools located in counties that are on the [Monitoring List](#) must not physically open for in-person instruction until their county has come off the Monitoring List for 14 consecutive days. Schools in counties that have not been on the Monitoring List for the prior 14 days may begin in-person



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instruction, following public health guidelines. Anyone can track daily data on whether and why their county is on the Monitoring List at <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/#track-data>.

## **2. Strong mask requirements for anyone in the school**

All staff and students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and above must wear face coverings. Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and below are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering, but a face shield is an acceptable alternative for young children who are unable to wear a face covering properly. Students should be provided a face covering if they do not have one. The state has delivered over 18 million face coverings to schools.

## **3. Physical distancing requirements & other adaptations**

Adults must stay 6 feet from one another and 6 feet from children, while students should maintain 6 feet of distance from one another as practicable. Anyone entering the school must do a health screen, and any student or staff exhibiting a fever or other symptoms will be immediately sent home. The guidance also provides that if anyone in a student or staff member's household is sick, they too should stay home

## **4. Regular testing and dedicated contact tracing for outbreaks at schools**

The public health guidance recommends staff in every California school be tested for COVID-19 periodically based on local disease trends and as testing capacity allows. The Governor also announced today that the state will provide resources and technical assistance for COVID-19 investigations in school settings.

## **5. Rigorous distance learning**

The state budget provides \$5.3 billion in additional funding to support learning. Under newly enacted state law, school districts are required to provide:

- devices and connectivity so that every child can participate in distance learning



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- daily live interaction for every child with teachers and other students
- class assignments that are challenging and equivalent to in-person instruction
- targeted supports and interventions for English learners and special education students

The full guidance from the California Department of Public Health can be found here: <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

## Resources

### Helping young people understand the pandemic

Smithsonian Science Education Center and the World Health Organization (WHO) have launched a curriculum to help youth ages 8-17 better understand the pandemic. Topics include exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the world, how to practice hand and respiratory hygiene and physical distancing, and how to research more information about COVID-19. The final task teaches youth how they can take action on the new scientific knowledge they learn to improve their health and the health of others. The curriculum is available in 21 languages, including Spanish.

### Caring for Kids during COVID-19

School closures and lack of child care present special challenges for parents, but there are some steps we can take to help manage this temporary new normal. These resources were compiled by the [Department of Homeland Security](#) for their employees, but are broadly applicable:

1. [Maintain a daily routine](#) (as much as possible) to ensure consistency and structure
2. [Be creative](#) with activities and ways to pass the time
3. [Set guidelines](#) for use of electronics and screen time
4. [Limit your exposure](#) to the news and COVID-19 updates to reduce anxiety
5. [Help your children](#) stay connected with their friends and family
6. [Create a plan](#) for regular exercise
7. [Pay attention](#) to your children and watch for signs of stress or illness
8. [Teach and reinforce](#) preventative actions, like hand washing