



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, July 24, 2020

*Deputy City Manager Paul Buddenhagen 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).*

## Worsening COVID-19 data - take action

COVID-19 has infected 350 Berkeley residents and killed three as of July 24, 2020 -- those numbers do not fully speak to the virus' threat. It is critical that we all wear face coverings, wash hands regularly and maintain distance from those outside of our household.

We put out [a community message](#) encouraging residents to keep data in context

- Many who build and support our community on a daily basis live in other cities, and, in the rest of Alameda County alone, the easily spreading virus has [infected nearly 9,864 and killed 175](#).
- CDC studies suggest that positive tests may represent only [one-tenth of the total number of people infected](#).

Everyone should use face coverings, social distancing and hygiene to slow the rise of COVID-19. Merchants should follow [business guidance](#), especially completing their site specific protocols.

See our [community message](#) for more detail.

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

Our [COVID-19 indicators weekly dashboard](#) is available 24/7, and contains detailed information everyone can explore. We maintain an official record that's easy to share with the public through weekly Council updates. 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 107 new cases in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County is increasing, with an increase of 33 people over the last 14 days.



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, July 24, 2020

*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.

*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 75%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 72%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 87%
- 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.

Some of the shortfall is due to the fact that we continue to onboard staff sent by the California Department of Public Health and we continue to transition to a statewide platform for contact tracing. Those are good changes for the



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, July 24, 2020

long-term, but, in the near-term, it has meant that inputting of data is not at the level we would like.

*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 struggling to obtain PPE - *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.

## **Testing**

Our testing sites performed a total of 1,025 tests last week. Of those, 63 percent live or work in Berkeley.

Our mobile testing unit continues to focus on equity by reaching people living in skilled nursing facilities, people who do not speak English, those in senior living complexes and more. The mobile unit conducted 273 tests this week.

*Note:* The state-run OPTUM site continues to face a test kit shortage and test result reporting delays. They are currently appointment only with no access for drop-ins.

## **Disease Containment**

The Disease Containment Branch continues to 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 185 people and provided multiple consultations to assist with worksite exposures.



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, July 24, 2020

## Spanish Language Webinar

Latinx Unidos, in partnership with the City, is hosting its second Spanish language webinar centered on navigating emotions and work sites during COVID-19. The webinar will include presentations by Berkeley Health Officer Dr. Lisa Hernandez, Public Health nurse Elisa Gallegos-Jackson and Family Therapist Solymar Sola-Negron. The webinar will be held Sunday, July 26 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM. To register for the event visit [bit.ly/registerlu](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health_Human_Services/Public_Health/covid19/latinos-unidos-webinar-2020-07-26.pdf).

Webinar Flyer:

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health\\_Human\\_Services/Public\\_Health/covid19/latinos-unidos-webinar-2020-07-26.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health_Human_Services/Public_Health/covid19/latinos-unidos-webinar-2020-07-26.pdf)

## Mental health community meetings

In our community survey of likely voters, 56 percent said that “mental health” was the single greatest challenge for their household as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

As part of our call for input on Mental Health Services Act Funding, we ask community members how we can shape our services to better meet community needs. This year, we also ask people to keep the pandemic in mind -- especially considering the lack of support for Black and Latino people.

People can submit suggestions via email or they can attend community meetings via zoom.

The meetings will be held by Zoom on the following dates and times:

- Monday, July 27, 6:30-8pm
- Tuesday, July 28, 11am-12:30pm

You can participate in the meeting over the web or by phone:

Join [online via Zoom](#)

Join by phone: 1 (669) 900-6833; Meeting ID: 844-673-3966, Password: 081337

Having our own Mental Health Division gives the City of Berkeley freedom to tailor services closely to our community's needs.



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, July 24, 2020

For more detail, see [our community message](#).

## Resources

### **Disaster Response Leadership Workshop**

The Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network (BDPNN) presents *Improving Leadership in Disaster Response*, an online workshop to help individuals and groups become stronger leaders in disaster response by improving their improvisation skills.

The online workshop will feature Susan Snyder who is a lecturer at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley and is also a Civilian Trainer for the City of Berkeley CERT program. The online workshop will be held July 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Visit the event [registration page](#) to sign up.

### **Preparing for wildfire smoke and poor air quality during COVID-19**

Experts warn that this year's wildfire season could be more difficult than last because of minimal late-season rain and snow. The challenge will be further complicated by COVID-19, a respiratory illness that may be impacted by poor air quality conditions.

Community members should take actions now to prepare themselves and their family. The following EPA resources cover what to do in a number of poor air quality scenarios:

- [Prepare for Fire Season](#)
- [Create a Clean Room to Protect Indoor Air Quality During a Wildfire](#)
- [Indoor Air Filtration](#)
- [Protect Yourself from Ash](#)
- [Protect Your Lungs: Respirators](#)
- [Protect Your Pets from Wildfire Smoke](#)
- [Reduce Your Smoke Exposure](#)