



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, July 29, 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.

Testing kiosk pilot

We have been looking at a number of ways to increase access to testing. This week, our EOC piloted a new method at San Pablo Park: a kiosk where someone can self-administer a mouth swab and put it in a receptacle -- all under supervision.

The several hundred slots for the two-day pilot were taken within 6 hours of [our announcement](#).

The City worked with Curative Inc., which has been approved by the state to provide this saliva-based test, which has been used widely in Los Angeles County for drive-up tests.

These and other Berkeley Public Health efforts have sought to increase testing for uninsured and vulnerable populations, especially Black and Latino, who are currently infected at more than 4.5 times the rate of white people nationally. The San Pablo Park pilot tests were free to those without insurance, as are the two other Berkeley sites coordinated through the City.

Our staff is being tasked with unprecedented responsibilities. And they are excelling.

Photos of the kiosk are attached [below](#).

Outreach to the unhoused

Direct outreach to unhoused community members continues to be a core element of our COVID-19 response. Last week, Berkeley Mental Health Outreach Teams visited two encampments and provided:

- 15 food bags
- 18 water bottles
- 10 masks
- 11 hand sanitizers



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Our expanded shower program served 400 people last week. A total of 258 people came to Willard Pool, for an average of 37 people per day. Of those, 14% were women and 86% were men. A total of 142 clients came to the West Campus Shower Program, for an average of 24 people per day. Of those, 77% were men and 23% were women.

Resources

FDA insight podcast: All About COVID-19 Testing

The [FDA Insight podcast](#) offers a weekly look inside an often overlooked player in the battle against COVID-19. A recent interview with Toby Lowe, Associate Director of the FDA's Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health, covers the basics of diagnostic testing for COVID-19 and answers common questions about at-home testing and different types of sample collections. [Download the 9-minute episode](#) or [read the transcript](#) on the FDA website.

The FDA's [coronavirus testing basics webpage](#) also provides a wealth of helpful information (and an excellent short video) about different types of COVID-19 tests, what they can and can't do, and how they may be used.

State expands disease data reporting requirements to include gender and sexual orientation

The California Department of Public Health is now requiring providers and labs to [collect and report patient gender identity and sexual orientation](#), in addition to race and ethnicity data. This will provide broader insight into health disparities among LGBT+ individuals.

State Health Officer Dr. Sonia Angell noted "Complete data is essential to addressing health inequities and better designing public health interventions that save lives. These changes apply to COVID-19, and all reportable diseases, to help us understand their impact by race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation."

The new requirements are effective immediately.



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Photo 1 of 3: Curative pilot test site



Photo 2 of 3: Curative pilot test site



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Photo 3 of 3: Curative pilot test site