



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, July 31, 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 88 new cases in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County is increasing, with an increase of 40 people over the last 14 days.

Not only are cases and hospitalizations rising at a faster clip, so is the severity. These trends are being seen throughout the region and they are raising concern.

*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.



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- Over the last two weeks, we have seen an average of 226 tests per day of Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested -- private hospitals, labs or our City site.

*Goal currently not 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 71%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 87%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 79%

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.

There appear to be several reasons for the shortfall. People are not answering phones and not always providing information on contacts. There are some delays in inputting data due to an ongoing transition to a new state platform. Delays in testing are also impacting the number of people being able to be isolated safely.

*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*



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- 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.

## **Pilot expands testing, more vulnerable groups targeted but lab delays creating concerns**

The two long-term testing sites coordinated through the City -- the state-funded Optum site on Martin Luther King Jr. Way and the Sixth Street site -- performed a total 885 tests last week. Of those, 58 percent live or work in Berkeley.

These tests didn't include an additional 539 people tested through [the two day pilot run by Curative Inc. at San Pablo Park](#).

Our mobile testing unit continues to target vulnerable populations. The 234 people tested this week included staff and residents at two skilled nursing facilities, group testing for several small businesses, and residents of the Stuart Pratt Manor senior housing complex.

Delays in test results continue to be a concern. We have been working with the state and we are also evaluating options.

## **Disease Containment**

The Disease Containment Branch continues their notification, contact tracing, and case investigation. This week, the team provided notifications to over 150 people.

The Med Health Branch continues to follow up with skilled nursing facilities in Berkeley to make sure each organization has an operational plan in place to respond to outbreaks and test their staff and residents.



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## Support for Berkeley renters

According to a recent Census Pulse Survey, a third of Californians have [little to no confidence they'll be able to pay next month's rent](#), or have already deferred. We're sending monthly reminders to community members about the [protections and support available to renters](#) in Berkeley, including deferred rent payments for 12 months following the State of the Emergency and up to \$15,000 in combined financial assistance through our pre-existing [housing retention program](#) and [COVID-19 housing retention grants](#).

To qualify for deferred rent, tenants must notify their landlords in writing no more than 7 days after rent is due. The Berkeley Rent Board has created a template in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) that can be used for this letter.

## Resources

### COVID-19 survey takes nation's social and mental "Pulse"

The US Census Bureau's [Household Pulse Survey](#) monitors how Americans are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. Survey results are published weekly and track trends in employment, spending, food security, housing, physical and mental health, access to health care, and educational disruption. Explore the results on an [interactive dashboard](#) featuring response data nationally, by state, and for certain large metro areas, including the San Francisco Bay Area.

### CDC Resource: First responder stories

Tens of thousands of public servants across the world are supporting the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic every day, but much of this work goes unseen. The CDC's [responder stories collection](#) brings the work of these unsung heroes to life, giving us a glimpse into what it's like to be part of the federal COVID-19 response as an epidemiologist, investigator, laboratory scientist, incident manager, communications specialist, and more.