



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 7, 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.

COVID-19 testing kiosk returns for a weeklong pilot

Last week's pilot of a self-administered testing kiosk in San Pablo Park was a great success, with 539 tests completed in two afternoons and all patients receiving results in 24-48 hours.

As you know, we're partnering with Curative, Inc. again to bring the kiosk back for an extended pilot starting Saturday. The kiosk will be located in the Berkeley Adult School parking lot at 1701 San Pablo from August 8 - August 14. Testing is available 10am-6pm on Saturday and Sunday, and 9am-6pm Monday-Friday. [Appointments can be scheduled online](#). It's an oral fluid (don't call it saliva) test, which is simple, painless and quick. I hope you'll try it out.

We sent a [message to community members](#) this afternoon encouraging them to sign up.

Statewide reporting delays on COVID-19 case counts and testing

The California Department Public Health announced this week that [COVID-19 case counts and testing figures are being underreported statewide](#) due to technical issues with data transfer between laboratory reporting systems. The extent of the underreporting is unknown.

These reporting delays impact published case counts and testing data, but do not affect patient care because test results are still being reported directly to providers and hospitals. Until the data issues are resolved, labs are also being instructed to manually report positive test results directly to local public health departments so that case investigation and contact tracing work can continue.

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.



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Because of the statewide data reporting delays, the listed numbers for positive cases and tests completed on Berkeley residents in this week's report are incomplete. Based on the data available, this is what we know as of today:

Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing

Current status:

- Number of cases identified in Berkeley is increasing. There were 74 new cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has decreased slightly, with 11 fewer people hospitalized for COVID-19 than two weeks ago

Goal 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.

- Over the last two weeks, an average of 213 tests per day have been reported for Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested -- private hospitals, labs or our City site.

We know this testing number is incomplete due to the state's data reporting delays, but do not know the extent of the underreporting. The information we have is insufficient to determine whether we truly missed the target.

N/A - insufficient data



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 79%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 74%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 86%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 82%

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 of disease.

There appear to be several reasons for the shortfall. People are not answering phones and not always providing information on contacts. Delays in testing are also impacting the number of people being able to be isolated safely.

We sent a [message to community members](#) this week asking everyone to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of whether they have received a positive test result.

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 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.



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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 and country.

Testing

Our testing sites performed a total of 855 tests this week. Of those tested, 59% percent live or work in Berkeley.

Our mobile testing unit continues to focus on equity, providing testing to people living in skilled nursing facilities, people who do not speak English, those in senior living complexes and more. The mobile unit conducted 195 tests Monday through Thursday this week.

Disease Containment

The Disease Containment Branch continues their notification, contact tracing and case investigation, providing notifications to over 150 people every few days.

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. This week, the team hand delivered test results to one skilled nursing facility.

Resources

Audio series on caring for friends & family

Whether you are new to providing support to a person in your life or a seasoned caregiver, the pandemic brings new challenges. The California Department of Aging has a [series of recorded conversations](#) to help you navigate these times (most are available in English, Spanish, and Mandarin):

- [Caring for an older adult in your home](#)
- [Caregiving from afar: caring for a loved one across town, across the country, or in senior living](#)
- [Essential conversations: planning for care and serious illness during the COVID-19 crisis](#)



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- [Caring for yourself while you're caring for someone else: stress relief, respite](#)
- [Grieving and loss during COVID-19](#)

Tips from the CDC for improving your sleep when times are tough

Just like food or water, sleep is a necessity for life and health. During sleep, your body fights off viruses and other pathogens, operates a waste removal system to clean the brain, repairs injured tissues, and forms vital memories that are essential for learning. Getting enough sleep can improve mental health, mood, and ability to think and make good decisions. The [CDC has advice to help improve your sleep](#) during stressful times, when adequate high-quality sleep becomes especially important.