



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 14, 2020

Deputy City Manager David White 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.

3 questions to reduce risk

To help guide people to safer activities, we've boiled down many of the rules into three questions that people can take action on: Where will you go? Who will attend? What will happen?

These questions are intended to guide people to limit activities within a small, stable group that meets outdoors and uses both face coverings and six feet of distance when with other households.

These questions are also intended to help people avoid confined spaces, crowds and close contact with those outside your household.

We sent a [message to community members](#) yesterday to remind people of the power they hold to limit spread to themselves and in our community.

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 are also maintaining these Friday updates as an official record that's easy to share with the public.

Based on the data available, 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 69 new cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has decreased, with 26 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, giving an effective lens into the workings of the virus in our community.

- Over the last two weeks, an average of 373 tests per day have been reported for 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 81%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 75%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 85%
- 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.

We continue to see ongoing barriers. That includes hesitancy from some community members to provide information on their contacts. Barriers also include delays in testing turnarounds -- which delay our ability to isolate people safely.



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In [our community message about reducing risk](#), we reminded people of the need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of whether they have received a positive test result.

People should [start self-isolating at home immediately](#) if:

- they suspect they have [COVID-19 symptoms](#); OR
- they had a positive test for COVID-19; OR
- experienced symptoms within two weeks of being with someone else with COVID-19.

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 have already seen happen in neighboring counties and across the State.

Testing Capacity Increase

This past week, we had four test sites operating:

- Sixth Street Site run in collaboration with LifeLong Medical
- The Optum site run in collaboration with the state
- Our Mobile Testing Unit, using staff from Sixth Street site
- Curative Kiosk at Berkeley Adult School.



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These four sites conducted a total of 1,917 tests from Aug. 8 through Aug. 13. The Curative kiosk has averaged just over 300 tests per day. Not including the Curative site, 29.2 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 377 tests from July 31 through Aug. 13. That included tests at several of the six long-term care facilities in the City as well as childcare facilities, Latinx Unidos and Newman Hall Church.

Disease Containment

The Disease Containment Branch continues their notification, contact tracing, and case investigation, providing notifications to over 250 this week

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 185 test results to three different long-term care facilities.

The Alameda County Long Term Care Facility Task Force will be holding fit-test training to build internal capacity in local facilities to use PPE. One Berkeley facility will attend the training on Monday, August 17, and the team is working to make sure the other five facilities are aware of this resource.

Our Disease Containment team now contains 17 interviewers and contact tracers. They include existing City of Berkeley Public Health Staff, other City staff and staff sent from the California Department of Public Health.

Support for Unhoused People

Last week, the Berkeley Mental Health Outreach Teams made 7 visits to 6 encampments. During these visits, the team provided 43 masks, 50 hand sanitizers, 40 food bags, 25 meals, 69 waters, and 1 tent.

Staff have also been distributing some tents to some unhoused people while also working with them to keep areas around them more clean.



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The EOC continues to support the City's "respite sites." Out of our 22 spaces, 19 are now occupied. Three people moved to the Rodeway Inn, the County-run Safer Ground Hotel that now has 15 out of 41 rooms occupied.

The team is processing referrals and expects occupancy to greatly increase next week.

Resources

Parenting through COVID-19 with young children

COVID-19 brings unique challenges for parents of young children. First 5 California has tools to help parents navigate the pandemic, including [advice from experts](#), [at-home learning resources](#), and recommended activities for [babies](#), [toddlers](#), and [preschoolers](#). They've also created a [resource library](#) with information on a wide range of topics - from talking to kids about coronavirus to paid family leave, working from home, and much more.

COVID-19 video resources from the CDC

The CDC created over 100 [short videos on COVID-19](#) available for download or sharing on social media. A few of the topics covered include:

- [Visiting friends and family with certain medical conditions](#)
- [Faith leaders: overcome the stigma of COVID-19 by caring, connecting, and celebrating](#)
- [I had COVID-19, but no symptoms. When can I be with others?](#)
- [Key times to practice social distancing](#)
- [Shopping for food and other household essentials](#)

From the CDC website, you can search and filter the [COVID-19 video library](#) by audience or language.