



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Monday, August 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.

Wildfire evacuation

In the midst of COVID-19, we are also simultaneously addressing wildfire season. For residents in the fire vulnerable hills, we have been encouraging preparation.

Our updated [wildfire evacuation page](#) guides residents through how to prepare their household in advance, what to do when a fire threatens, how to evacuate and what to do when returning home.

This page was updated with COVID-19 considerations in mind, such as including face coverings in a go bag.

The more that individual households prepare, the better able we are to help those in need.

New activities permitted under health order

As you all know, certain outdoor activities – like pools & haircuts -- will be allowed to open on Friday morning, using measures that reduce risk for COVID-19.

Increased sanitation, limits on the total number of people, the use of appointments, verbal screening for symptoms and protective equipment are some of the required measures for various activities permitted by [a new City of Berkeley Health Officer Order](#), which goes into effect at 8:00 am on Friday, August 28.

The new Health Order allows the following activities, with restrictions:

- Outdoor pools
- Outdoor personal care services
- Small, outdoor practices for school and college sports
- Live-streamed and live entertainment at vehicle-based gatherings
- Outdoor wine tasting

Even as new activities are allowed, caution remains. There is still no effective treatment or vaccine for COVID-19 disease. Alameda County as a whole, which



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includes Berkeley as an independent health jurisdiction, [remains on a state monitoring list due to case rate and hospitalizations](#).

In coordination with Alameda County, we sent out [a community message](#) on Friday evening.

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 written updates as an official record that's easy to share with the public.

Based on the data available, this is where we stand as of Friday 8/21/20:

Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing

Current status:

- Number of cases identified in Berkeley is increasing. There were 68 new cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has increased, with 27 more 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.



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- Over the last two weeks, an average of 413 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 77%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 85%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 80%

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.

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.



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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

The City coordinates four testing operations:

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

These four sites conducted a total of 1,055 tests from Aug. 17 through Aug. 20.

The Optum Test Site experienced air quality issues on Friday afternoon. Our testing team worked closely with the site to deliver air filters and address air quality issues, allowing the site to re-open this morning.

Air quality put the Curative Kiosk pilot on hold. Assuming air quality continues to improve, we are expecting to re-open the San Pablo Avenue site this week.

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 122 tests from Aug. 17 through Aug. 20. That included tests at several of the six long-term care facilities in the City as well as childcare facilities, and groups that work with people who are disabled.

Support for Unhoused People

The EOC continues to support the City's "respite sites" our trailers and the house. Out of our 22 spaces, 19 are now occupied.

The Rodeway Inn, the County-run "Safer Ground" hotel, now has 38 out of 41 rooms occupied. The Quality Inn has 3 out of 29 rooms occupied. The team is processing referrals and expects occupancy to greatly increase next week.



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Resources

Consumer Alert on price gouging relating to wildfires and extreme weather

A consumer alert has been issued following the Governor's [declaration of a state of emergency](#) due to statewide fires that have been exacerbated by the effects of a historic heat wave and sustained high winds. Price gouging (unfairly raising prices during a state of emergency) is illegal. State law protects people impacted by an emergency from illegal price gouging on housing, gas, food, and other essential supplies.

"As families throughout the state face devastating fires and extremely dangerous weather, they shouldn't have to worry about whether they're being illegally cheated out of fair prices for essential goods and services," said Attorney General Becerra. "Our state's price gouging law protects people impacted by an emergency from illegal price gouging on housing, gas, food, and other essential supplies. I encourage anyone who has been the victim of price gouging, or who has information regarding potential price gouging, to immediately file a complaint with our office online at oag.ca.gov/report, or to contact their local police department or sheriff's office."