



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 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.

Outdoor Commerce

As we let the community know in a [community message last week](#), outdoor haircuts and many other personal care services are now allowed if they use COVID-19 safeguards.

New and existing businesses need a temporary permit to operate in public and private outdoor spaces such as parking lots or patios in commercial and industrial areas.

Office of Economic Development staff and 311 staff have been proactive in reaching out to many merchants about this process. OED staff have also been working with merchants to assist them with applications, a process outlined on our [updated COVID19 Outdoor Commerce web page](#).

COVID-19 updates from the State of California

Today Governor Newsom announced changes to the state's approach to reopening the economy, replacing the former County Data Monitoring List.

Now, every county is assigned to a color-coded tier based on its rate of new cases and test positivity. At a minimum, counties must remain in a tier for at least 3 weeks before moving forward. Data is reviewed weekly and tiers are updated on Tuesdays (beginning September 8). To move forward, a county as a whole must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks. If a county's metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned a more restrictive tier. Public health officials are constantly monitoring data and can step in if necessary.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 2020

Counties and local health jurisdictions, such as Berkeley, can continue to have more restrictive rules in place. Data for local health jurisdictions such as Berkeley will be included in overall metrics, and will be assigned the same tier as their respective county.

WIDESPREAD Most non-essential indoor business operations are closed.	More than 7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	More than 8% Positive tests
SUBSTANTIAL Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed.	4-7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	5-8% Positive tests
MODERATE Some business operations are open with modifications.	1-3.9 Daily new cases (per 100k)	2-4.9% Positive tests
MINIMAL Most business operations are open with modifications.	Less than 1 Daily new cases (per 100k)	Less than 2% Positive tests

New state color-coded tiered system

The new guidance is informed by increased knowledge of risk factors relating to COVID-19 and how the disease transmits. Goals of the new guidance include slowing the movement between phases; aggressively reducing case transmission in preparation of the coming flu season; and simplifying the framework and laying out clear goals for counties to work towards.

Newsom explained the change: “We’re going to be more stubborn this time and have a mandatory wait time between moves. We didn’t do that last time, and that’s a significant distinction between what we’ve learned from the past and what we’re now advancing in this more stringent — but we believe more steady — approach.”

The Governor, in his verbal remarks, was explicit that more restrictive local rules would trump state rules. Unfortunately, [their website](#) is not so clear -- and it is creating confusion. One example includes “hair salons and barbershops.” In Berkeley, [the order that went into effect today, August 28](#), states that those businesses can only operate *outdoors with restrictions*.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 2020

Please continue to refer residents, visitors and merchants to the City site, cityofberkeley.info/covid19, which we work very hard to keep up to date.

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:

Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing

Current status:

- Number of cases identified in Berkeley is increasing. There were 67 new cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has increased, with 25 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.

- Over the last two weeks, an average of 398 tests per day have been reported for Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested -- private hospitals, labs or our City-coordinated sites.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 2020

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 83%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 79%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 86%
- 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 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.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 2020

Air quality impact on testing

Across the Bay Area, Covid-19 test sites have been fully or partially shut down due to the smoke caused by the fires.

This has also been the case in Berkeley; where the Optum test site closed early on several days where the smoke was particularly bad, and the second Curative pilot that was supposed to run through last weekend was suspended and postponed after two days. We are working on acquiring more powerful air purifiers for the Optum site, as well as creating clear standards for conditions under which they shut down.

With regards to Curative, we are looking at securing an indoor location for them to resume testing possibly by the end of next week and to include additional days than planned. During this time, City of Berkeley testing will be suspended at 1900 6th street; though we will continue with mobile testing and advancing our equity focused testing agenda. Lifelong Medical, whose clients focus on the uninsured and unhoused, will continue its testing at the City site at 1900 6th street.

As mentioned in our indicators, we continue to far surpass our testing goals.

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. Over the past week, that has included testing at two senior centers as well as the Berkeley Bowl.

Disease Containment Unit

Our Disease Containment Unit continues to conduct their notification, contact tracing, and case investigation efforts. The team, in collaboration with the EOC's Med Health Branch, made over 200 notifications this week, including providing results to 104 employees at two different Long Term Care Facilities.

Additionally, the Disease Containment Unit provided guidance and communication to UC Berkeley's University Health Services regarding move-in procedures.



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 2020

Fire Weather and Air Quality Impacts

As we move into the heart of fire season, staff continues to monitor impacts from regional fires and fire weather events.

On Sunday-Monday, August 23-24, the Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning including the East Bay Hills. Staff followed internal readiness and community notification procedures. This included:

- Alerting the Berkeley community on AC Alert, Nixle, 1610 AM and Twitter.
- Coordinated with Weather Service to monitor forecast specific to the Berkeley hills
- Fire Department coordinated with other Alameda County Fire Departments to assess availability of fire response resources
- Staffed an extra Type 6 wildfire patrol unit
- Changed Fire Dept operations to temporarily restrict out of County deployments (to ensure staff availability for Berkeley response)
- Public Works staff contacted PG&E staff and reminded them of the work restrictions on red flag days in Fire Zones 2/3
- Our Joint Information Center re-vamped our wildfire evacuation page to include more preparation guidance and incorporate COVID-19 information.

Berkeley continues to have air quality impacts from regional fires, especially the Woodward Fire, which was 8% contained on Friday. Staff is monitoring air quality forecasts to be ready to change operations if necessary. While air quality impacts were especially prevalent over last weekend and in the beginning of the week, they tapered off midweek as the marine layer tamped down fire activity in regional fires. While the weekend is expected to have decent air quality, forecasters expect additional air quality impacts in the coming workweek as temperatures rise.

Emergency information for Public

We continue to urge people to sign up for AC Alert, our dedicated emergency channel to reach people over text, phone and email.

[Sign up for AC Alert emergency notifications.](#)

With fire season fully underway, we are also encouraging those who live in the hills to use and reference our [wildfire evacuation page](#), which guides residents through



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 2020

how to prepare their household in advance, what to do when a fire threatens, how to evacuate and what to do when returning home.

The more individual households prepare, the better able the City will be to help those in need.