



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, September 4, 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.

Public messaging shift: make trade-offs to limit risk

In a community message this week, we introduced the concept of trade-offs to guide people through the idea that when they choose one activity, they should sacrifice another.

If this is the week someone chooses to get a haircut at a salon, we encourage them to instead choose to postpone dining outdoors, get takeout or cook at home. People might choose to give more time between visits to the grocery store or bank.

The concepts of managing risk and making trade-offs build on [our earlier messaging about asking three core questions](#) to help assess COVID-19 risk: Where will you go? Who will attend? What will happen

These risk management messages strive to give people conceptual tools to manage the ongoing pandemic. We also hope to reduce confusion about what is signaled by permitting new activities, such as this week's allowance of haircuts indoors. Just because actions are newly permitted, doesn't mean people should do them.

The risk of COVID-19 infection is still very real. There remains neither a vaccine nor an effective treatment.

See our [community message about making tradeoffs](#). These themes were reiterated in [a message from Bay Area Health Officers](#) that offered tips on how to reduce spread for the impending Labor Day Weekend.

Statewide eviction moratorium protects renters until February 2021

Governor Newsom signed a statewide eviction moratorium on August 31. Under the law, landlords cannot evict tenants who are unable to pay rent because of COVID-19 before February 2021.



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Starting this month, tenants who defer rent will be required to pay 25% of the rent they would have owed for the period from September through January no later than January 31, 2020.

We sent a [message to community members](#) this afternoon explaining how to ensure they are protected and access support resources if they are unable to pay.

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 79 new cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has decreased, with 54 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.



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- Over the last two weeks, an average of 443 tests per day have been reported for Berkeley residents, no matter where they were tested -- private hospitals, labs or our City-coordinated sites.

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.

An ongoing concern in disease containment involves multigenerational families living together. It is hard for them to isolate and quarantine when living in shared quarters.

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*



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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.

Disease Containment

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.

Support for people who are unhoused

As of today, 68 of the 69 rooms are occupied in the Alameda County-run Operation Safer Ground hotels: Rodeway Inn and Quality Inn.

Most of the residents in these hotels are Berkeley residents, the result of diligent, patient work by our homeless outreach team.

In addition, our EOC continues to support those staying at the trailers and house that encompass our Berkeley Respite Sites, which have 16 out of 22 spaces occupied.

The expanded shower program continued to see clients this week:

- Willard Pool: 206 total clients, averaging 34 people per day (96% male, 4% female)
- West Campus Pool: 135 total clients, averaging 19 clients per day (86% male, 14% female)

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.



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[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 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.

Resources

Stories of community innovation during COVID-19

During difficult times, it's important to recognize spots of brightness. Communities across the world are responding to COVID-19 in innovative ways that highlight the best of our collective ingenuity.

FEMA publishes regular compilations of "[Community Innovation Stories](#)," which highlight innovative ways people have found to help those around them - from discarded fishing nets being recycling into face shields in Thailand to "Radio Recliner," a retiree-run radio station that combats isolation in residents at senior living centers by providing a forum for them to share memories, favorite songs, and connect with loved ones.

COVID-19 resources for patients with cancer

The pandemic creates unique challenges for people with cancer and their loved ones. Some treatments such as chemotherapy can weaken your immune system and may increase risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Cancer.gov offers [COVID-19 guidance specific to patients with cancer](#), including resources on how to protect yourself and what to do if you experience symptoms. Specialists are available via [online chat](#) to answer questions Monday-Friday, 6:00am-6:00pm.