



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, September 25, 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 at least weekly, can be viewed at cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates.

Red Flag Warning for Berkeley hills: Saturday Sept. 26 - Monday Sept. 28

We are encouraging residents of the hills to prepare for high fire danger this weekend by signing up for alerts, reviewing evacuation routes, packing or refreshing "go bags," and parking off street when possible.

We are urging people to use extreme caution when operating BBQs, power equipment, or other heat sources such as idling cars. Fireworks are always completely forbidden in Berkeley and surrounding areas.

The core tasks we ask the public to do are:

- **Sign up for [AC Alert](#).** Make sure everyone in your home is registered for AC Alert, the City's emergency notification service.
- **Review your household's evacuation routes.** Make sure to plan at least two routes away from your neighborhood. During an evacuation you may not be able to drive, so consider using the network of Berkeley Path Wanderers paths in your evacuation plans. See cityofberkeley.info/wildfire for evacuation information and download our [printable evacuation checklist](#).
- **Pack or refresh your [go-bag](#).** Everyone in your household should have a go bag with the things you would need to safely evacuate. In the era of COVID-19, this includes face coverings and hand sanitizer. If you have a go bag already, check it and replace any expired items, like food or batteries.
- **Park off-street.** Use your driveway or garage, leaving streets clear for emergency vehicles.

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

Please share [our community message](#) through your channels.



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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 74 new cases reported in the last 14 days -- thirteen less than for the last period.
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has decreased, with 50 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 675 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:



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- 90% of all cases are reached and contacts identified - currently at 84%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 79%
- 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 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.

Support for people who are unhoused

The two County-run hotels used to house medically vulnerable homeless people in Berkeley continue to remain fully occupied.

The 69 people in those units, which are known as North County Safer Ground hotels, are mostly from Berkeley and were identified, in part, through extensive work done through our EOC and HHCS staff.



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We support them however we can. This week, the EOC provided 500 hand sanitizers, 1,000 tie on face masks, and 1,000 gloves among other sanitization items to support the people living in these hotels, the Quality Inn and the Rodeway Inn.

The team this week also received nursing support from Samuel Merritt University nursing and masters of nursing students. These nurses are providing support to residents for their CalFresh, IHSS, and MediCal applications as well as performing routine wellness checks.

As mentioned last week, the EOC's Unhoused Support Branch and the Health Officer continued their visits to shelters this week to determine whether they are operating at appropriate capacity. They have together identified space for more unhoused to be sheltered according to COVID-19 guidance.

The expanded shower program continued to see clients this week:

- Willard Pool: 241 total clients, averaging 34 people per day (85% male, 15% female)
- West Campus Pool: 152 total clients, averaging 22 clients per day (92% male, 8% female)

As heat rises, City opens cooling center for the unhoused

On both Sunday Sept. 27 and Monday Sept. 28, the City is partnering with Dorothy Day House to open Old City Hall as a cooling center for anyone, but especially the unhoused community.

Dorothy Day House implements physical distancing, temperature and other symptom checks, as well as provides masks, hand sanitizer, and water to clients who visit.

Old City Hall does not have air conditioning, so similar best practices are followed as ones implemented by the housed community: keep blinds closed, turn off lights, and use a fan if possible.