



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Friday, October 2, 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.

Elementary Schools may open on Oct. 13, if they implement restrictions

The collective action taken by so many in Berkeley have power, especially when backed by the Public Health expertise and work that's a core part of our EOC.

The result of that community and City work is that cases and testing positivity rates have gone down, pushing us into a new tier of the state's permitted activities. And that means elementary schools may open.

School openings have a substantial socio-emotional, educational and societal impact on children, their families and workplaces. And this decision to open elementary schools comes with the understanding the youngest children struggle the most with distance learning.

Schools can open if they follow certain restrictions.

This plan must be posted on a school's website and shared with their school community prior to reopening.

Elementary schools in Berkeley must:

- Conduct systematic testing, regardless of symptoms, of all staff and volunteers at least once a month, and should also consider these "screening" tests for students.
- Ensure prompt testing and isolation of any symptomatic staff and students as well as those who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Meet state requirements on social distancing by using strategies such as hybrid school schedules that allow only a subset of students on any given day.
- Designate at least two trained COVID-19 liaisons who will coordinate with the City of Berkeley on all COVID-19 related matters, including case investigation and contact tracing.



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You can read more detail in [our community message](#).

We know this is a long effort and many months lie ahead. Yet this is a moment of progress as a community, and part of a tradition of being led by Berkeley Public Health that goes back to 1880.

Red Flag Warning for Berkeley hills through 6am Saturday, October 3

We are encouraging residents of the hills to continue to prepare for high fire danger 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.



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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.

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 53 new cases reported in the last 14 days -- twenty-one fewer than for the last period.
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has decreased, with 14 fewer people hospitalized for COVID-19 than two weeks ago

Goal 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 669 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 84%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 80%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 84%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 79%

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.



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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.

Resources

CDC resource: talking to children about COVID-19

As in-person instruction resumes, children may worry about themselves, their family, and friends becoming ill with COVID-19. Parents, family members, school staff, and other trusted adults can play an important role in helping children make sense of what they hear in a way that is honest, accurate, and minimizes anxiety or fear. CDC has created [recommendations to help adults have conversations with children about COVID-19](#) and ways they can avoid getting and spreading the disease.

Resources for kids: dealing with stress and trauma during COVID-19

Adults aren't the only ones stressed out during the pandemic. Kids have lots of questions and anxieties, too. First 5 California has developed a toolkit to help children feel safe and secure. The [Care, Cope, Connect](#) guide includes suggestions for supporting children, self-care tips for parents and caregivers, and 4 pages of activities just for kids. In addition to English, the guide is available in [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), and [Korean](#).