



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, November 25, 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 at least weekly, can be viewed at [cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates](http://cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates).*

## **Urging no or limited gatherings for Thanksgiving**

In the midst of a surge in COVID-19 cases spanning the Bay Area and the nation, our most imminent threat is something that, in other years, would be familiar and comforting: gatherings with other families over Thanksgiving.

As a City, we are urging people to take action by avoiding mixing with other households and canceling any planned events. While we have been communicating for weeks about holiday gatherings, today's message also seeks to give people tools to address one of the biggest barriers to compliance: social pressure.

We want people to have what state health officials call the "COVID chat:" sticking with public health guidance in a way that maintains healthy emotional and social connections to family.

The tips and guidance in our community message also align with guidance from the state. For those who continue to gather, we also give guidance on how to do that safely.

See and share [our community message](#).

Spanish-language versions of [holiday safety guidance](#), and [gathering](#) and [travel](#) recommendations from Bay Area Health Officers are available on the City's website.

## **Public Health Response to COVID-19 outbreak at Golden Gate Fields**

City of Berkeley Public Health continues to work closely with Golden Gate Fields on a significant outbreak where more than 200 people living or working on-site at the racetrack have tested positive for COVID-19.

1/ST Racing, which operates the track, is following all of the City's recommendations for testing, quarantine and isolation. The steps they have taken include the following:



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- Every person living or working on-site has been tested and additional testing will be done.
- All those who have tested positive are isolated, following federal, state and City guidelines. The track is assisting with off-site housing for those who have tested positive and has arranged for twice daily food delivery to ensure that those individuals do not have to leave isolation and have the essential items they require.
- Golden Gate Fields' on-site medical director, an infectious disease expert, is providing medical consultation to those who live and work at the racetrack.
- For close contacts who need to quarantine for 14 days, the track is providing daily food delivery and access to medical support as well as the means to safely quarantine, including additional bathrooms and handwashing stations.

Golden Gate Fields continues to implement health and safety measures including, strict social distancing, masking policies and regular COVID-19 testing with isolation requirements for any positive cases or identified close contacts.

The City's role has been to rapidly respond to events, give coordination and direction and facilitate the many public health measures that need implementation for an outbreak of this scale.

Berkeley Public Health has, among other things, visited the site, worked with labs to facilitate speedy return of results, provided test kits, supplied personal protective equipment, given technical guidance on how to implement isolation and quarantine, and directed the nature and scope of testing.

On each aspect of this significant response, Berkeley Public Health has put the highest priority on each of these actions. Our commitment is long-term. Should testing identify more cases, further investigation and tracing will be done by Berkeley Public Health and additional isolation and quarantine will be required.

## **Digital Local Shopping Guide for Berkeley Businesses, Artisans**

The holidays are a critical time to support our local businesses, and our Office of Economic Development has been working with a number of local partners to create a digital shopping guide for Berkeley.



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With over 100 local businesses participating, [BerkeleyHolidays.com](https://BerkeleyHolidays.com) has ideas for everyone on your list, from those with a sweet tooth to fitness fanatics.

Explore gifts across nine categories, or make a social impact while you shop by filtering the list to highlight the nearly 70 [women entrepreneurs](#) and two dozen [minority- and black-owned businesses](#).

Many businesses are offering promotions for gift guide users, including discount codes ranging from 10% to 25% off your purchase.

Please share information about BerkeleyHolidays.com on your networks. Our [community message](#) may be of help.

## 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 also maintain 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 last Friday (11/20):

### **Indicator 1: Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing**

Current status:

- There were 242 cases reported in the last 14 days
- Number of hospitalized patients in Alameda County has increased compared to 2 weeks ago, with 37 more people hospitalized for COVID-19 than two weeks ago

*Goal currently not 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



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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 1,013 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 80%
- 90% of cases that we reach are isolated safely -- currently at 73%
- 90% of all contacts identified -- currently at 85%
- 90% of identified cases can safely quarantine -- currently at 78%

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.*

Our ability to meet these indicators can signal progress or, if conditions worsen, could lead to further restrictions.



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## Testing & Disease Containment

Our testing sites continue to test at a high rate, creating a public health infrastructure that is critical for navigating the complexities of life in a pandemic.

Last week, **Curative** completed a total of 1,677 tests, for an average of 280 per day, approximately 56% of whom were Berkeley residents.

The state-funded **Optum** test site at the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center continues to be fully booked. Last week, Optum completed 568 total tests, an average of 280 per day, approximately 56% of whom were Berkeley residents.

All of the City's information about testing services can be found at [cityofberkeley.info/get-tested](https://cityofberkeley.info/get-tested).

## Support for Unhoused People

A core part of our work has been to find shelter for those people who are unhoused who are also medically vulnerable.

The four units at our house on Fifth Street are fully occupied. In addition, 13 of the 18 trailers we established are occupied by 16 people. Both of the County-run hotels continue to be used extensively, and most are Berkeley residents -- a reflection of our outreach work. 67 of 69 rooms are currently occupied by a total of 77 people.

We continue to see active use of our expanded shower program. Last week, Willard saw an average of 30 people per day. Of those, 85 percent were men and 15 percent were women. West Campus served an average of 27 people per day. Of those, 81 percent were men and 19 percent were women.