



City Manager's

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, July 1, 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](https://cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates).*

## **Celebrate 4th of July safely**

As Fourth of July nears, please remind your networks to celebrate safely, avoid gatherings, and refrain from using fireworks.

Holiday picnics or barbeques should be limited to one's household or [social bubble](#). Most gatherings are still prohibited under the current Health Order. We're [encouraging community members to plan alternative celebrations](#), like a backyard campout, festive craft project, or online fireworks show watch party. Remember - during COVID-19, the safest place to be is at home.

## **Waterfront festival and fireworks canceled**

Due to the pandemic, the annual 4th of July festival and fireworks show at the Berkeley Waterfront has been canceled.

Vehicle access to the Waterfront will be closed starting at 4pm on Saturday July 4. We ask everyone to avoid gathering at the Waterfront except with members of their household or social bubble. Parks and paths will be open, but picnic areas and playgrounds remain closed.

## **Report illegal fireworks**

Fireworks - including those marketed as "safe and sane" in neighboring communities - are not allowed in Berkeley. They can cause severe injuries when not handled by professionals and spark fires. That's a particular concern in the Berkeley hills, where dry grasses can ignite quickly.

Community members can report illegal fireworks to the non-emergency dispatch line at (510) 981-5900.



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## Outdoor pickup at libraries

[Curbside pickup is now available](#) at all Berkeley Public Library locations.

Community members can place new holds using the [Library's online catalog](#) and will receive a courtesy notice by email when their items are available. Patrons do not need to make an appointment for pickup, but should have their library cards ready. Face coverings are required.

## Next phase of State's COVID-19 response to protect homeless Californians

Yesterday, Governor Gavin Newsom highlighted Project Roomkey's progress made in providing safe isolation capacity to protect people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19 (15,678 hotel and motel rooms available statewide, with estimated 14,200 people having been served). He also [announced the launch of Homekey](#), the next phase in the state's effort to protect vulnerable homeless Californians from the pandemic:

Homekey is backed by \$1.3 billion in newly available funding through the [budget](#) the Governor signed on Monday.

- Counties will partner with the state to acquire and rehabilitate a variety of housing types: hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings, residential care facilities, and other tiny homes
- The program can be augmented by federal stimulus funding and philanthropic support from Kaiser Permanente and Blue Shield of California

"We've long dreamed about scooping up thousands of motel rooms and converting them into housing for our homeless neighbors," said Governor Newsom. "The terrible pandemic we're facing has given us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to buy all these vacant properties, and we're using federal stimulus money to do it. Hand in hand with our county partners, we are on the precipice of the most meaningful expansion of homeless housing in decades."



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## Resources

### **CDC Resource: visiting parks and recreational facilities during COVID-19**

Many of us are looking forward to time outside over the long weekend. Visiting parks, trails, and open spaces is a great way to relieve stress, get fresh air and vitamin D, and stay active. However, it's important to take COVID-19 precautions, including wearing face coverings when others are around. Before going out, take a minute to review the CDC's guidance on [protecting oneself and others during outdoor recreation](#).

### **Fourth of July weekend safety measures in California State Parks**

California State Parks is implementing safety measures to reduce the density of visitors over the Fourth of July weekend (July 3-5) in the State Park System.

- Vehicular access is temporarily closed at all beaches in certain counties, including Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Sonoma.
- State Parks' staff will monitor visitation and physical distancing over the weekend. Measures will be taken to modify operations where needed to limit overcrowding. Visitors are being asked to leave if there are too many people to allow for the required physical distance.
- Current camping reservations at all state park units over the Fourth of July weekend will be honored.

Detailed information on closures and safety measures is available on the [California State Parks website](#). For those planning to visit parks this weekend, they've prepared a video offering [advice on recreating safely and responsibly](#).