



Greetings Neighbor,

We are at one month of sheltering in place. The good news is that it seems to be effective – the rate of new infections seems to have ‘flattened’ when comparing us with other similar metropolitan areas in the country that did not institute a Shelter In Place as quickly as we did. Nevertheless, we will need to remain sheltered in place so as to not lose that positive result. We hope that as testing becomes more accessible – including serological tests, which confirm whether someone previously infected has now recovered – and contact tracing systems are up and running, our public health officials will be able to provide new guidance on how best to protect ourselves and our community.

But for the time being, we all must remain sheltered in place and adhere to all the health and safety protocols as established by the County Order.

Following are some of the main issues we’ve been focused on this past week:

Impact on Oakland City Budget. Oakland’s vibrant retail, travel and hospitality, restaurant and entertainment industries have taken significant hits. The current crisis will have considerable impact on Oakland’s revenue, with early projections suggesting as much as a \$30 million deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. I am in ongoing discussions with the City’s Finance staff and the Mayor. Mid-cycle adjustments for the FY 2020-21 budget will be presented to City Council for consideration and discussion later in May. I am actively involved in those discussions.

Relief for Independent Contractors, ‘1099ers’, gig workers and self-employed: Whereas standard unemployment insurance is only available for workers who receive W-2 wages, a new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) was approved in Congress as part of the 2 trillion CARES Act. However, the **Federal Government has not yet provided guidance** to the States on how to implement this new program. So if you fall into this category, do not lose hope. State officials have promised to update [this page](#) when California is ready to implement this program.

Mental Health: Financial worries, health concerns and existential anxiety are on the rise. Here are some resources to help tend to emotional health:

- 24/7 Behavioral Health Services Department Call Center: (800) 491-9099
- Crisis Text Line: Text RENEW to 741741
- Crisis Support Services Suicide Prevention – (800) 309-2131
- Crisis Support Services Text Line – text "safe" to 20121 between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. 7 days a week
- Nationwide Hotline – (800) 273-TALK or (800) 273-8255

Use of masks and face coverings: Bay Area and State health officials are now recommending residents cover their nose and mouth with a mask or other cloth covering when going out in public in venues in which maintaining at least 6 feet physical distance might be challenging, such as in grocery stores or pharmacies. [Read the complete Press Release here.](#) The face coverings need to cover the nose and mouth; bandanas, fabric masks and neck gaiters are acceptable. County officials do not recommend that the general public use the N-95 or sterile surgical masks, which are in limited supply, as those should be preserved for our health care workers and pre-hospital transport providers. If you have extra supplies of these PPEs, [please consider donating them.](#)

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank and celebrate the essential workers who are keeping us safe, fed and healthy while we are at home. While many of the restrictions and changes to daily life are frustrating at times, it helps to remember that when we adhere to the necessary health and safety protocols, we are helping reduce the risk to our health care personnel and other essential workers in addition to our neighbors.

-Dan

~ The more we keep our distance, the sooner we can get back together ~

Oakland Slow Streets program

On Friday, April 11, I joined with Mayor Libby Schaaf, Council President Kaplan, Councilmember Gallo and our Oakland Department of Transportation to announce the [Slow Streets](#) program. This new pilot effort to make it safer to walk and bicycle in Oakland, by designating low-traffic neighborhood streets across the city for bikes, pedestrians, wheelchair users, and local vehicles only. This will not impact commercial or main thoroughfare streets. This effort began as a pilot this past weekend rolling out at four locations and will move to other streets throughout this month.

- West Street from West Grand to 14th Street
- Plymouth Street from 78th Avenue to 104th Avenue
- E 16th Street from Foothill Blvd. to Fruitvale Avenue
- 42nd Street from Adeline to Broadway

Any new program--even a temporary one--raises understandable questions. However I believe there is merit in this program for two main safety reasons.

One: Many of our city sidewalks are relatively narrow and people are getting too close to one another, or moving out into the roadway, while just trying to go out for a walk around the block or to the drug store. This slow streets program provides more room on a certain number of low-traffic residential streets for people walk and keep safe distances from others - and cars - during this crisis.

Two: We know that while vehicle trips are down during this emergency, **vehicle speeds are up** in many neighborhoods. Limiting motor vehicle access on some residential streets so people who are walking, jogging, or biking can do so safely is important. I have also asked the city if they can adjust the speed limits to help encourage people to slow down. This is being considered.

Please note that NO streets will be CLOSED outright. **The streets in this temporary program will remain accessible by motor vehicle for people who live on the block, and for people who are going to pick up or drop off food or other deliveries.** And the program of course will **not** impact emergency vehicle access in any way. The intention is not to financially penalize drivers - we don't expect a ticketing operation at this point - but to discourage drivers from using these low-traffic residential streets for through traffic.

The program will be closely monitored and staff will make adjustments as needed on an ongoing basis. So please do let my office know if this program causes hardships as it gets rolled out in the coming days.

For more information, please see this page: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/oakland-slow-streets>.

Street Repaving: As you may have noticed, a number of city streets on the City's 3-year re-paving plan are being completed during this shelter-in-place emergency.

Need help? Want to help?

Donate to or apply for help from these funds and projects, from financial assistance for small businesses and tipped workers to undocumented households and families with OUSD students.

1. [Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) addresses food insecurity, homelessness, community health & education, and economic security of workers, nonprofits and small businesses.
2. [Oakland Undocumented Relief / OUR Fund](#) provides \$500 grants to undocumented immigrants and those in mixed-status families who've lost jobs / income.
3. [One Fair Wage Emergency Fund](#) serves very low-income service and tipped workers. The fund has a grant from the Oakland COVID-19 Fund of \$100,000 dedicated to Oakland residents.
4. [Rapid Relief Fund for Kids and Schools](#) to purchase healthy food for students, distance learning materials, and to ensure school facilities are safe when students return. Contribute [online](#) or by texting "Oakland" to 31996.
5. [East Bay FeedER](#) purchases meals at full price plus tip from local, independently-owned restaurants and delivers those meals to feed frontline workers at five East Bay hospitals. [Get your restaurant involved](#), [donate](#), or [volunteer](#) to drive.

6. **Volunteers:** We continue to seek able and [healthy volunteers](#) to help us deliver food and medicine to our seniors and low-income families. We also need help sorting at food banks. Over 70 volunteers have already been deployed. Please [sign up here](#) to help.
7. **SOS Meals on Wheels:**



Thank you to North Oakland volunteer *Gabrielle Pearce* for her volunteer commitment to helping seniors in need. And thanks so much to [SOS Meals on Wheels](#) for their vital service during this crisis and year-round.

Click on the picture to view a very brief video. Thank you.

Domestic Violence

An already vulnerable population has been made even more vulnerable because they, along with their abusers, are sheltering in place. Domestic abuse is on the rise; some nations are seeing up to a 50% rise in emergency calls related to domestic abuse. And now many East Bay organizations are reporting increasing incidents of domestic abuse.

This is a cause that remains close to my heart. I have sponsored multiple resolutions and called for public educational presentations during my time as a City Councilmember to honor the lives of victims, show tremendous appreciation to those who provide assistance to domestic violence victims and educate the public about the resources available to them. We must not forget that there are thousands of calls related to domestic violence incidents to the Oakland Police Department annually, even prior to this crisis. And domestic abuse is increasing as we shelter in place through this pandemic.

Help still is available for those experiencing domestic abuse. The [Alameda County Family Justice Center \(ACFJC\)](#) is a Division of the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. It provides legal, health, and support services for victims of domestic abuse. That support continues through this current crisis. If you are experiencing an emergency, please call 911. If you need help and are not experiencing an emergency,

the ACFJC has two crisis hotlines for those in need. The Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline: [\(800\) 947-8301](tel:(800)947-8301) and the Rape Crisis Hotline: [\(510\) 845-7273](tel:(510)845-7273). There are a host of free services that a caller can be connected to directly. Here is a link to [ACFJC's COVID-19 response document](#) for those who need it, and please remember that you are not alone.

Testing update

The City of Oakland started testing frontline/public facing essential City employees in early April; this week it opened a new COVID-19 test site to serve all Oakland essential service providers. Healthcare workers, grocery store employees, homeless outreach workers, and others working directly with the public during the pandemic may. If an organization or company operating in the above needs to make arrangements to test their eligible employees, email covid19testing@oaklandca.gov to learn more.

At this point testing services are available only to individuals with COVID-19 symptoms or confirmed exposure, as well as health care workers, County homeless outreach workers, and grocery store employees.

We are working with our county and other partners to source more testing capacity. For example the City of Oakland has initiated discussions with Children's Hospital of Oakland Research Institute to leverage their available lab space for COVID-19 test production and analytics.

Alameda County Public Health Dashboard

The Alameda County Public Health dashboard [is now live](#). The dashboard, a work in progress, currently includes data on the age, gender, and City of residence among those who have contracted the COVID-19 virus; race/ethnicity was just added this weekend.

Property Tax Penalty Waivers for Eligible Taxpayers

The Alameda County Treasurer/Tax Collector will review waiver of penalty requests on a case-by-case basis, beginning on Monday, April 13th. The direction we are hearing from the County is that if property owners feel they can show they have been financially impacted by COVID-19, then they will most likely be given a waiver of penalties and interest. This will be true for individuals, businesses and landlords. County Treasurer Hank Levy has assured us that he will be taking a “humanitarian” approach when considering waivers, at least for a reasonable amount of time. More information, and required forms and procedures [are available here](#).

Business Resources and Assistance

As of today, more than 1,050 [business impact survey](#) responses have been received. About 80% of respondents requested to be contacted, and City Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD)

staff have made personal phone calls to these business owners to share available resources and support, and encourage them to apply for SBA loan and grant products. In addition, [an email outlining available resources](#) goes to all survey respondents. To keep all survey respondents and the broader Oakland business community informed of the latest information, EWDD is pushing out [weekly email updates](#) in five languages to more than 8,000 contacts, including our business support partners.

Please consider taking the [COVID-19 Business Impact Data Survey](#), which services as the City's intake pathway to request one-on-one business assistance and [Subscribe for the weekly business email updates](#).

The State has a website with helpful information and resources for small businesses and employers. See <https://covid19.ca.gov/business-and-employers/>.

Please consider ordering take-out from a nearby local restaurant, purchasing a gift card on-line from a local merchant who is shut down during this emergency, and even making a small donation to a local business that may be struggling to survive. Thank you!

Worker Resources and Assistance

I'm thrilled to report a new web page with resources for [Artists and nonprofit Arts organizations](#) has been launched: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/resources-for-oakland-artists-and-nonprofit-arts-organizations>.

A new web page with Worker Resources has been launched:
<https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/coronavirus-2019-covid-19-business-and-worker-resources-1>

The State has various web pages with helpful information and resources for employees/workers. Click the following links to access these resources:

https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/workers.htm

<https://onwardca.org>

Here is the [Alameda County one-pager on job loss](#).

Medical Supplies - If you are able to donate necessary medical equipment to help ensure our health care workers are protected, please [click here](#) for local Oakland donations. And if you have access to large quantities of medical supplies, please contact the state at <https://covid19supplies.ca.gov>.

Updated Service Impacts and Revisions:

- [List of City of Oakland service impacts, including facility closures, service suspensions, and alternative service points \(online, telephone, or by appointment\)](#)

Earth Day

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day. Fifty years ago it was estimated that 20 million people organized across the United States and helped catalyze the modern environmental movement. Although the COVID-19 pandemic prevents us from gathering in person like when one in ten Americans did so on that first Earth Day--or like Oaklanders have traditionally done to volunteer each year--each household still can organize and take actions for the Earth from our homes.

Traditional **Earth Day** events have been cancelled of course. However, the City of Oakland has prepared helpful information for residents to consider as 'At Home' Earth Day activities. We're sharing 50+ home-based and online ideas in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! We'll be updating this list as we learn of and create additional resources. We also want to hear what you're doing to celebrate and steward the Earth. Share your ideas via email adoptaspot@oaklandca.gov.



<https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/oakland-earth-day-2020>

AC Transit & BART

AC Transit

Service Changes Effective March 31, 2020: AC Transit will begin operating a modified service schedule in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although similar to the existing Sunday service, arrival times will

differ from it. Information about the service changes may be found here: <http://www.actransit.org/2020/03/30/modified-schedule-effective-tuesday-march-31/>

Please continue to stay informed by checking COVID-19 service updates at www.actransit.org.

BART

Starting Wednesday, April 8, Monday-Friday service will run every 30 minutes systemwide all day, with 3-line service beginning earlier in the evening and single tracking in San Francisco starting at around 8pm. **Effectively, every other train is being cancelled Monday-Friday.** Weekend service remains unchanged at this time. The online Trip Planner has been updated and PDF's of the new schedule that begins 4/8/20 are posted here <https://www.bart.gov/schedules/pdf>

***Remember you should only travel to and from your place of work IF you work for an essential business or government operation AND cannot work from home.

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)

Please check websites for park closure information. Some parks have been closed to limit overcrowding, and address public & staff safety.

<https://www.ebparks.org/news/displaynews.htm?NewsID=316&TargetID=3#new-closures>.

Oakland Unified School District

The Alameda County Office of Education has stated that all school districts within Alameda County will abide by the agreement reached by the Governor's Office and stakeholders across the state. Please visit the OUSD website for updated information: <https://www.ousd.org/coronavirus>.

[Free lunches continue to be available for all student-age Oakland residents](#).

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)

EBMUD will not disconnect customers' water service due to billing/payment issues during this health emergency. *If your water has been shut off due to non-payment, please call EBMUD Customer Service at 1-866-403-2683 to make arrangements to restore service.* In addition, EBMUD's Customer Assistance Program helps reduce bills for customers facing economic hardships. For more information, go to www.ebmud.com/cap.

For many, the shelter-at-home and closure requirements are an inconvenience to say the least. For others, they are starting to have a serious financial impact, affecting livelihoods and the ability to make

ends meet. Still others may be most seriously impacted by a family member or close friend having contracted the virus. And of course, some of our friends and neighbors who work in health care are on the front lines helping those most in need. We owe them our heartfelt gratitude.

I have been reaching out to seniors in our neighborhoods to see if they have any unmet needs during this emergency. If you believe a neighbor of yours is home-bound and in need, please do your best to contact them and if necessary, contact my office and we will follow up.

3 Ways to Save Lives and Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

There are some simple things the State of California and AARP are asking all Californians to do to minimize exposure and to protect others.

We're working to keep you healthy.
We're all in this together.
#StayHomeSaveLives



STAY HOME

Don't leave home unless you absolutely have to.

Try grocery or restaurant delivery, mail order prescriptions, phone appointments with your doctor, and telework.

Contact friends, family, or neighbors who can help safely deliver essential items.



SAVE LIVES

If you must leave home, maintain six feet of distance from others, wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, use alcohol-based sanitizer, and disinfect all touched surfaces when you return home.

If you have mild symptoms (difficulty breathing or a rapidly worsening fever and cough), call your healthcare provider. **If more severe, call 911.**



CHECK-IN

Check-in regularly with neighbors, friends, and family by calling, texting, emailing, video chatting, or even writing letters.

Walking, gardening, digital books, games and online religious services are **great ways to stay active** and spiritually connected.

AARP has valuable resources for family caregivers, and tools to find or start a local mutual aid group, at aarp.org/coronavirus or aarp.org/elcoronavirus.

For more information, go to www.covid19.ca.gov or call 1-833-544-2374

PAID FOR BY AARP

Please know that essential city and county services remain in place. Police and Fire departments are in operation. You do not need to go out right now to shop for a month's worth of food - our food supply chain is stable and strong. While safety protocols should be strictly observed, there is no need to panic and no need to hoard any one specific item.

Sources for Global and Local Public Health Updates:

- [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int)
- [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [California Department of Public Health](https://www.cdph.ca)
- [CA Department of Aging - Resources](https://www.cdah.ca.gov)
- [Alameda County Public Health Department](https://www.alamedahealth.org)

Contacts:

Oakland SeeClickFix - Call 311 - <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/oak311>

Alameda County Social Services and Referral - Call 211 - <http://211alamedacounty.org/2-1-1-alameda-county-resource-finder/>

Councilmember Kalb's Office - 510-238-7001

OPD for Emergencies - 911 (or 510-777-3211) \ for non-emergencies - 510-777-3333

~ [Read Additional COVID-19 Updates and Links here](#) ~



[Read Councilmember Kalb's Past Newsletters here](#)

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