



Greetings Neighbor,

We just learned that the Health Officers from six Bay Area counties (including Alameda County) will issue a formal update this week to **extend the current Shelter-in-Place Order through the end of May**. The new order will largely keep the current restrictions in place, with limited easing of restrictions for a small number of lower-risk activities. The full [statement](#) from the Counties can be downloaded [here](#).

According to the statement, hospitalizations have leveled, but more work is needed to safely re-open our communities. Prematurely lifting restrictions could easily lead to a large resurgence in cases. As effective as our efforts have been, if we move too fast to ease restrictions, the potential of exponential spread could have grave impacts to health and wellness of our residents as well as the economy.

My staff and I are working hard to get relevant information to you and your neighbors. We also are reaching out in particular to our senior neighbors to make sure people have their needs met. And we are working to respond to residents on Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 matters. If you believe some of your neighbors are not receiving my regular newsletters and updates, please send around this link: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/councilmember-kalbs-covid-19-resources>.

As a follow up to last week's County Order regarding face masks, the County [issued a FAQ](#) which clarifies when mask are required vs. recommended. For example, some people have interpreted the order to require face masks every time residents leave their homes. While this is certainly the safest strategy, face coverings are only required when inside--or in line to enter--an essential business; while seeking health care; and while riding on or waiting for public transportation. You are NOT required to wear face coverings while exercising outdoors, like walking, hiking,

bicycling, or running - *as long as you keep safe distancing*. You always should have a face covering with you and readily accessible in case you encounter others and/or are unable to maintain a 6 foot distance.

Please note that face masks with one-way valves designed to facilitate easier exhaling should not be used. These valves -- typically a raised plastic disk about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask -- allow moisture droplets out of the mask, putting others nearby at risk.

Finally, given that workers at essential businesses are required to wear face masks at all times, I have procured face coverings for use by workers at essential businesses.

If you are an Essential Business Owner in District 1 who needs masks for yourself and your employees, please email my office at dkalb@oaklandca.gov.

-Dan

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

Save the Date: May 11 Virtual Community Forum on Wildfire Prevention - 5:30 PM

District 1 is working with District 4, District 6 and the Oakland Fire Department to hold a virtual community forum on wildfire prevention with a focus on vegetation management inspections, due to begin mid-May. More info to come.

Support for Small Businesses

The Small Business Administration's (SBA) [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) **resumes on April 27th**. The PPP offers forgivable loans up to \$10 million to keep employees on payroll or quickly rehire employees and maintain salary levels. To be forgiven, 75% of the loan must be used for payroll. Demand will again be high so early applications are recommended.

Find a PPP Lender

You must apply for PPP through a participating lender. Contact your bank to see if they are taking applications, or use SBA's find a lender tool

at www.sba.gov/paycheckprotection/find or check out this [roster of local partners](#).

If you are a [Square](#), [PayPal](#), or [Intuit](#) customer, they are now authorized lenders and you can apply for a forgivable PPP loan through their websites. PayPal is currently accepting applications in anticipation of funding.

Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)

The new federal legislation also includes additional funds for SBA's [Economic Injury Disaster Loan program](#), that provides a [cash advance grant](#). Owners who decide not to take the loan or who are declined still keep this cash advance as a grant. The amount of the advance will be determined by the number of your pre-disaster (i.e., as of January 31, 2020) employees. The advance will provide \$1,000 per employee up to a maximum of \$10,000.

NOTE: If you already applied for EIDL before March 30 and were not approved, you should re-apply in order to receive the Cash Advance Grant. If you applied after March 30 and received a confirmation number, you do not need to reapply. You can check the status of your loan by calling 1-800-659-2955.

Other Grant Opportunities

On April 24 Oakland's Economic & Workforce Development Department's Business Development team announced the following grant opportunities for small businesses.

- [LISC Small Business Relief Grant](#) will provide small business grants in the amounts of \$5,000, \$7,500, and \$10,000 to help them keep functioning and remain vital facets of their local economies through this challenging period. The grants will support small businesses and enterprises affected the Covid-19 across the country, especially those in underserved communities, including entrepreneurs of color and women- and veteran-owned businesses that often lack access to flexible, affordable capital. **The application period closes April 28.** [Español](#)
- [Salesforce Care Small Business Grants](#) will provide \$10,000 grants to eligible for-profit small businesses with between 2 and 50 employees and annual revenue between \$250,000 and \$2 million. **The application period in California opens April 27 and closes May 4.**
- The [Facebook Small Business Grants Program](#) offers both cash grants and Facebook ad credits. You do not need to be on Facebook or Instagram to receive a grant. **The application period closes May 6.**

The Economic & Workforce Development Department's Business Development team continues to work one-on-one with Oakland businesses to help them apply for SBA grants, forgivable loans, and other resources to maintain cash flow during the Shelter in Place Order.

Any business that takes the **Business Impact Data Survey** at www.oaklandbusinesscenter.com will receive a follow-up call directly from staff. You may also [subscribe to their weekly business email updates](#).

Finally, the **Oakland Chamber of Commerce** is providing businesses with advisors to assist with business planning and financing, and sharing updates on current and prospective funding opportunities. [Register Here](#).

Small Business Insurance

For the many small businesses that have been forced to close or are on substantially reduced hours and already had business interruption insurance, The CA Department of Insurance has information that may be helpful.

"The [California Department of Insurance](#) recognizes that COVID-19 is affecting many businesses throughout the state. With many businesses experiencing severe interruption, the Department is issuing guidance for businesses regarding insurance coverage and particularly about Business Interruption Insurance coverage." [Click here for more information](#).

Wipes Clog Pipes!

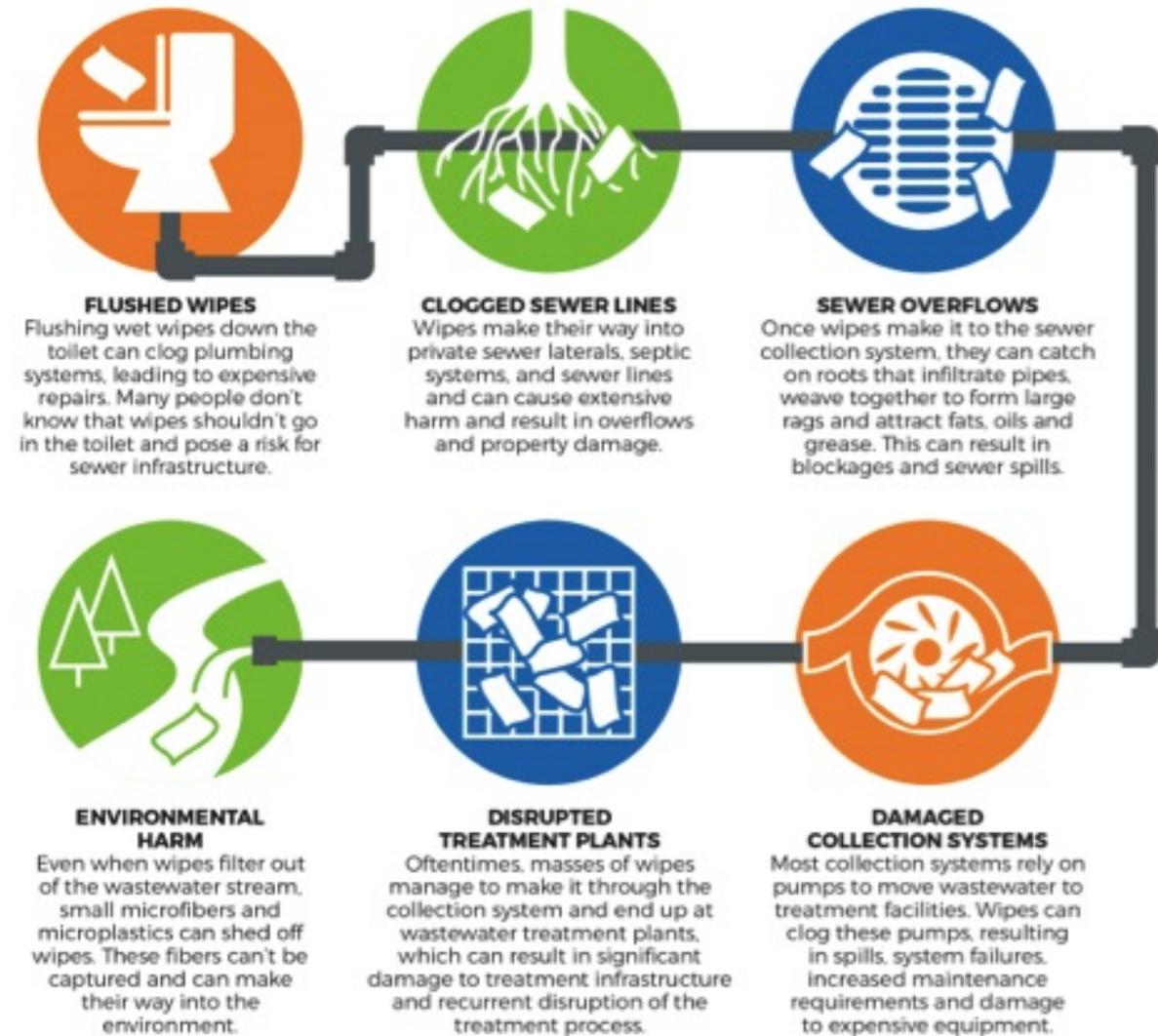
Single-use wet wipes – baby, disinfectant, disposable – have become ubiquitous in our society. Right now, people are using wet wipes in record numbers because of sanitation concerns and perceived toilet paper shortages due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Even though many of these products are marketed as flushable, they [are not compatible](#) with sewer system infrastructure. Wipes have synthetic fibers made from cellulose that do not break down after being flushed and can catch on tree roots and accumulate with fats, oils, and grease and become large obstructions in the pipes.

Further down the line, they weave together and create giant rags which get stuck in pumps, collection systems, and motors, causing backups and equipment failures. Clogs can allow sewage to discharge into storm drains which feed into Oakland waterways and the San Francisco Bay.

Wastewater treatment facilities and sanitation services are already reporting increased issues with clogged sewers and sewer management collection systems apparently due to COVID-19 related challenges.

So please, toss ALL wipes into the garbage!



Oakland Library Resources

The Oakland Public Library has been shut due to the Shelter in Place order, but staff have stepped up to provide lots of [online support and resources](#) for Oaklanders, especially schoolchildren and their parents.

For example, the Library offers a variety of [E-books and Downloadable Audiobooks](#).



Library cardholders can download digital content any time, to a computer or a mobile device. They have also started online events such as three times per week [Online Family Storytime](#). See the [Events Calendar](#) for more events.

Please follow our Public Library @oaklibrary on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

COVID-19 Testing Update

The Alameda County Public Health Department has formed a COVID-19 Testing Task Force to develop and implement a coordinated testing program to address disparities, ensure countywide access, and support the County's COVID response. The County's goal is to reach 2,500 COVID-19 tests per day countywide, with testing of all symptomatic individuals. According to the County, at this time serological (antibody) testing is useful for studies exploring the extent of the epidemic but remains unreliable for diagnosing infection and predicting immunity. For more information and for a list of testing sites in Alameda County, please see this link. <http://www.acphd.org/media/571443/alameda-county-covid-19-testing-2020.04.23.pdf>

The City of Oakland is operating a COVID-19 test site to offer free testing to anyone in Alameda County who is working or volunteering outside the home who has symptoms or has had contact with the virus. Health care workers and shelter workers can receive testing even if they are asymptomatic. Grocery store employees are also eligible if their employer signs up in advance.

For more information and to enroll, please visit oaklandca.gov/testing.

Additionally, with the support of the Governor's Office, [CORE](#), and [Project Baseline by Verily](#), the City has partnered with Roots Community Clinic to plan a new test site in East Oakland. The test site will be one of the first walk-up only test centers in the Bay Area, and will have the capacity to test up to 250 per day. Staff are coordinating with CORE, Roots, Project Baseline and the County to manage the logistics and identify a start date.

Alameda County Board of Supervisors Passes Countywide Ban on Evictions

Last Tuesday, April 21 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors [adopted a countywide ordinance](#) halting all evictions during the local health emergency

regardless of cause, with exception for imminent health and safety reasons. This ordinance pretty much mirrors the protections provided in [Oakland's eviction moratorium ordinance](#) that I co-authored back in March with Councilmember Nikki Fortunato-Bas and City Attorney Barbara Parker.

The County legislation also allows tenants 12 months to repay overdue rent, giving tenants a reasonable time to become current on past due rent. In addition, the County moratorium creates a permanent ban on evictions for this overdue rent, instead making any overdue rent a consumer debt. Landlords may still pursue the debt via small claims court, a payment plan or garnishing wages with court approval.

The ordinance also makes it easier for residents to claim the protections granted under this ordinance, especially residents who do not have immediate access to the required documentation or the ability to submit them.

I am grateful to my colleagues on the Alameda Board of Supervisors for passing these tenant protections that are modeled after and complement Oakland's existing eviction protections.

If you are having trouble paying rent and need assistance negotiating with your landlord, please contact the [Oakland Rent Adjustment Program](#).

Keeping North Oakland's Unhoused Safe and Fed

Oakland Communities United for Equity and Justice (OCUEJ) is the umbrella nonprofit organization comprised of Phat Beets Produce, North Oakland Restorative Justice Council, and the Self Help Hunger program. These organizations have been active in North Oakland for years. During this unprecedented time, OCUEJ continues its work in our community, including providing food for local people who are unhoused as well as providing them with hygiene kits regularly-- particularly important during this pandemic. OCUEJ is regularly in need of supplies, but the need is especially great now. Please consider donating the following supplies to OCUEJ:

New wrapped toilet paper/paper towels | Wipes | Hand Sanitizer | Rubbing Alcohol | Bleach | Unopened masks/gloves | New toothpaste/deodorant/tooth brushes | New socks/underwear | Rain gear/tarps | Bottled water/juice packs | Canned foods (tuna, peanut butter/jelly, canned meats, canned soups etc.) | Easy-to-heat boxed foods (ramen, mac and cheese, etc) | Bagged Rice and Beans | Frozen Meats/Tofu (for future meals) | Dog Food | Ziplock Bags | Garbage bags

If you would like to donate, please contact Diana at diwu118@gmail.com or (510) 898 6992. Porch pick-up can be available.

Donate [\\$\\$ for the drive](#) • Sign up for items to be pickup [from your porch](#). Drop off days for [donation of items](#) to the Omni (4799 Shattuck Ave).

Oakland's Homeless Response During Covid-19 Crisis

At our District 1 Town Hall on April 20, Oakland Homelessness Administrator Daryel Dunston described the City's three-pronged homeless response during the Covid-19 crisis:

- 1. On the ground.** Includes increased services to curbside communities. Over 100 porta-potties and wash stations have now been placed at 40 curbside communities throughout the city. The City is also distributing hand sanitizer, safety precautions and education materials. Testing is restricted to active symptomatic cases and those known to have been in contact with the virus or known to be at risk of serious health complications. With NGO partners, 1,000 meals are being delivered daily to unsheltered residents and medical outreach teams are visiting encampments regularly.
- 2. Strategic coordination** with County, State and NGO partners. Ensure all guidance and policy direction received are shared with local providers. City working with shelter providers to provide operational guidance and access to cleaning supplies. Occupancy at shelters is being tracked daily.
- 3. Planning for isolation or quarantine.** Identify and secure sites that can be used for unsheltered residents who have tested positive, been exposed to a person who has tested positive, or who is over age of 65 or has a previous medical history has placed them at greatest risk for Covid-19 complications. A March 27 [City Council resolution](#) authorized the City Administer to acquire properties to help with housing unsheltered residents during the Covid-19 crisis. The City has since reached out to over a dozen hotel owners to identify locations. It is exploring lease agreements or purchase of certain properties to potentially convert these rooms to transitional or permanent affordable housing after the current crisis. This is distinct from the State's [Operation Roomkey program](#) in which 393 rooms in Oakland are being leased by Alameda County for unsheltered residents throughout the County.

No encampment closures during Covid-19 crisis. On March 27, in light of guidance from the CDC, Oakland City Council [adopted an ordinance](#) suspending

closure of any encampment during the Covid-19 crisis unless alternative housing locations could be offered. This is for health and safety reasons. Resources previously used to prepare for encampment closures have been redirected to **increased garbage collection at encampments** – something for which I had long been advocating. I am also advocating for strong considerations for our retail businesses to make sure those that are open can operate as needed.

Testing of unsheltered residents. Unfortunately, due to the nationwide testing kit shortage, the City does not currently have the capability or capacity to conduct testing of all residents of encampments throughout the city. However, street outreach teams are visiting encampments daily to identify and refer individuals for testing. Testing for unsheltered individuals who screen positive for symptoms of Covid-19 or who are at an increased risk of contracting the virus (by virtue of their age or previous medical history) is happening in partnership with Alameda County's Trust Clinic at 14th and Franklin, and at Roots Community Health Clinic at 99th and International. Outreach teams coordinate transportation to the testing sites.

Resources for Seniors

At my District 1 Virtual Town Hall on Monday, April 20, California Department of Aging Director Kim McCoy Wade mentioned a number of helpful resources for seniors and those who care for and about them.

1. [Stay Home. Save Lives. Check-In Campaign.](https://engageca.org) engageca.org – Lots of resources to help you check-in and ensure that all the needs in your neighbors' and loved ones' lives are being met
2. **Friendship Line California** -- <https://www.ioaging.org/services/all-inclusive-health-care/friendship-line> - 1-888-670-1360
3. **How to Help & Volunteer** -- <https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov/get-involved/>
4. **Ideas to Stay Connected with Those in Senior Living Facilities** -
- <https://dailycaring.com/nursing-home-lockdown-6-ways-to-stay-connected-with-seniors-during-a-coronavirus-scare/>
5. Bridging the Digital Divide – <https://www.aginginplace.org/how-to-become-tech-savvy-for-seniors-in-10-days/>
6. May is Older Americans Month – theme is Make your Mark
- <https://acl.gov/oam/2020/older-americans-month-2020>

Oakland Slow Streets

In response to largely positive community feedback on the Oakland Slow Streets program, Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) [is sharing approximately 13 additional miles](#) of Slow Streets for community review. Of the 13 miles, 4-5 miles will be selected for “soft closures” to be installed with signage, cones and barriers on Friday, May 1. Additional “soft closures” informed by community feedback will be installed on Friday, May 8.

Oaklanders are encouraged to participate in the process three ways:

- Completing the online survey to identify the next streets for signage, cone, and barrier installation, at <https://tinyurl.com/nextslowstreets>
- Completing the online survey to provide feedback on the program overall, at <https://tinyurl.com/oaklandslowstreets>
- Contacting OAK311 by dialing 311 or 510-615-5566, e-mailing OAK311@oaklandca.gov, reporting program feedback online at 311.oaklandca.gov, or using the free OAK311 mobile app for Apple and Android devices

Since the Slow Streets launch on April 11, the City has been focusing on ways to make the program more reflective and responsive to the needs of Oaklanders, especially some of Oakland’s most vulnerable residents, including communities of color and seniors, who may be more at risk of health impacts related to COVID-19. Staff have been convening virtual meetings with community advocacy and neighborhood groups, focusing particularly on groups active in East Oakland.

According to survey results from approximately 200 residents thus far, 74% of respondents, across all Oakland ZIP codes, support the program. Staff are now seeking to reach more residents to ensure the feedback is more fully representative of the Oakland community, including East Oakland.

Food Distribution

The City continues to expand food distribution to seniors, families and people experiencing homelessness, and plan to provide over 18,000 meals this week and next through partnerships with Head Start, our Senior Centers, Meals on Wheels, World Central Kitchen and local restaurants. Plans are in development to partner with the State on the new FEMA-reimbursed program for expanded food production and delivery to seniors and those with pre-existing health conditions.

EBCE Rejects Nuclear Energy

I strongly opposed the potential acceptance of nuclear energy for the East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) authority. As the current Chair of the EBCE Board it was necessary for me to facilitate a thorough debate during our April 22nd meeting. Fortunately, the Board agreed with my recommendation and decided not to accept any allocation of nuclear energy from PG&E in 2020.

This highlights the advantage of democratically-controlled Community Choice Energy Authority over investor-owned utilities such as PG&E.

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

Oakland Recycling/Waste Collection Hotline - (510) 238-7283 (recycling@oaklandca.gov)

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



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

DAN KALB

Follow Dan on [Twitter here](#) and [Facebook here](#)