



Greetings Neighbor,

One of the more heartwarming aspects of this crisis is the number of times I have heard from people asking, “How can I help?” Therefore I am sharing a few specific suggestions on how you can help those most in need: donating to or volunteering with Meals on Wheels, donating blood, and a new Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund.

This update also includes information about support for Oakland residents; businesses and workers, including Oakland's paid sick leave law; an update from Building/Planning department; an update from AC Transit; and Governor Newsom's support for our homeless residents.

But first, two important announcements today:

****** Donate new, unused face masks ******

Drop in a sealed package at the Main Library book return bins, 125 14th St. (if you have large quantities too large to fit in bin, please email: eanswers@oaklandlibrary.org)

******Use but don't abuse our City and Regional Parks******

*Use parks for personal exercise and stress relief but **not for social gatherings**; keep 6 feet away from others at all times. (Marin County and State of California have closed parking lots at their respective parks because visitors were not following social distancing requirements)*

During this emergency, myself and my hard-working District 1 team are working remotely but remain available -- email is the best route but we are checking our office voicemail regularly.

Seth Steward | Neighborhoods: Bushrod, Mosswood | Legislative Lead, Finance & Budget, Governance, Tenants/Landlords | ssteward@oaklandca.gov

Lisa Jacobs | Neighborhoods: Rockridge, Upper Rockridge, North Hills, Temescal | Public Works, Wildfire, Transportation, Homelessness, Environment | ljacobs@oaklandca.gov

Deidra Moss | Neighborhood service areas: Golden Gate, Longfellow, Santa Fe, Piedmont | Building & Planning, Public Safety, Education | dmoss@oaklandca.gov

Meals on Wheels - More Important Than Ever

Many homebound seniors rely on the daily knock on the door, the friendly smile on a volunteer's face, making Meals on Wheels the reason to get up in the morning. Many seniors respond well to continuity, and they feel safe when their environment and schedule are the same every day.

However, because nearly 40% of Meals on Wheels volunteers in Alameda County are 65 or older, the [organization is working harder than ever](#) to limit service interruptions. If you are able, [please consider volunteering](#). Members of my staff and I will be doing some volunteer

shifts this week and over the next few weeks. I have been advised that safety protocols are in place to maximize protection for volunteers and clients.

And due to an increase in demand, Meals on Wheels needs the community's financial support more than ever. Gifts can be made online at www.feedingseniors.org.

Finally, if you or someone you know who is at least 60 years old in Oakland may need in-home food deliveries as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, please call SOS Meals on Wheels at **510-582-1263**.

Calling All Potential Blood Donors

One thing people can do to help their community and the entire country during this public health emergency is to donate blood. The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage due to cancelled blood drives (as of March 17, the American Red Cross reported nearly 4,000 drives cancelled and more than 100,000 fewer blood donations overall).



Donating blood is an essential activity, painless and very safe. I donate blood twice a year. If you are healthy and eligible to donate blood (see [this link](#) for requirements), there is a wonderful donation center at 6230 Claremont opposite the Safeway. Call (800) 733-2767 or make an appointment at this link: rcblood.org/appt

Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund

On Friday, March 20th, Councilmembers Kalb, McElhaney and Bas joined with Mayor Libby Schaaf to announce the launch of the [Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund](#), an emergency fund to serve Oakland's most vulnerable residents and first responders during the pandemic.

Already endowed with \$2.5 million from several generous foundations and donors (including the Hellman, Stupski and Crankstart Foundations, Blue Shield, and the Oakland A's), the [Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) will provide immediate grants to nonprofit organizations working on the frontlines in four priority areas: food, homelessness, community health, and economic security.

The Fund will be managed by professionals who are donating their time to ensure a thoughtful, rapid, and transparent process to disburse donors' contributions. Already the fund has committed:

- \$400K for Alameda County SOS Meals on Wheels
- \$300K from Blue Shield to set up testing for our frontline workers
- \$200K for Keep Oakland Housed
- \$250K for support to Oakland small businesses

The Oakland Fund also will allow you to provide direct support to the most vulnerable in our community; 100% of donations will go to the local community. Members of the public and philanthropic organizations can donate to the Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund to help protect the health of all Oaklanders by visiting <https://www.oaklandfund.org/>.

We are strong, we are resilient, we are compassionate.

No Fare Required on AC Transit; Board in Back

AC Transit is implementing rear-door boarding on buses with multiple doors. Fare payment is not required until further notice.

AC Transit is deemed to provide an essential service during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This means it must continue to serve riders who rely on public transit for vital access to resources, healthcare, and employment. AC Transit continues to follow the guidance

of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local public health departments, to mitigate the transmission of coronavirus.

For timely updates please visit the [AC Transit website](#).

Mayor's Town Hall on COVID-19

On Friday March 20, Mayor Libby Schaaf organized a [virtual Town Hall](#) on COVID-19. She was joined by key Oakland staff working to support Oakland's resilience and recovery who responded to dozens of questions received by the community. You can [watch the video at this link](#).

I was struck by the professionalism, compassion and honesty demonstrated by our hard-working staff - it makes me proud to be an Oaklander. The Mayor has promised to organize weekly virtual town halls during this emergency as long as the community finds them useful. Councilmember Kalb will be hosting a virtual Town Hall in the weeks ahead.

Update from Planning & Building Department

Oakland's Planning & Building Department is [taking measures to provide essential governmental](#) functions consistent with the County's Shelter-in-Place order. Given that Planning and Building counters are now closed to the public, customers can still submit certain types of applications online, provide plans, and ask questions using the City's [online services and resources](#).

Priority services remain operational as outlined in the [service matrix](#) on the City's new web page for information on Planning & Building services during the COVID-19 health emergency.

In summary, the department will prioritize the following:

- Housing projects, particularly affordable housing projects and mixed-use projects that include housing
- Emergency repairs
- Continuing review of existing projects already submitted to the city
- Other inspections as resources and time allow

Links:

- Planning & Building web page: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/news/2020/planning-building-department-response-to-shelter-in-place>
- Planning & Building Services & Resources: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/related-to/departments/planning-and-building>

Councilmember Kalb has been concerned about contractor adherence to distancing and hand sanitation requirements at active construction sites, so he has asked the City Planning & Building Dept. and other government agencies to ensure that general contractors are informing workers of the health and safety requirements and taking responsibility to do what is necessary (such as having a sufficient number of hand-washing stations available) to facilitate smooth adherence to the health and safety protocols in order to protect workers and nearby residents. See [this link for safety guidelines](#) from the CA State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO.

Worker Paid Sick Leave

Do you work in Oakland? If so, you are probably eligible for paid sick days, provided by your employer. According to the City of Oakland's Paid Sick Day Law:

- Employers are required to provide Paid Sick Days to their workers so they can stay home when they are sick or need to go to the doctor or to care for others who

may be sick or need care.

- All Oakland workers are covered under this law. All workers performing at least 2 hours of work per week within the geographic boundaries of Oakland are eligible to accrue and use paid sick time.
- Workers can use Paid Sick Days to take care of family members who are sick, including designating any individual for whom the worker can use sick leave to support.

- Workers accrue 1 hour of sick time for every 30

hours worked. Workers at small businesses with 10 employees or less can accumulate up to 40 hours of sick leave at a time. Workers at all other businesses can accumulate up to 72 hours of sick leave at a time.

- Workers may not be required to find or confirm a replacement if they need to use sick leave to care for themselves or others.
- Employers may only take reasonable measures to confirm a worker's eligibility for sick leave. Any requirement to document or verify sick leave that costs a worker more than \$5 is not a reasonable request.
- Oakland's Paid Sick Leave ordinance incorporates changes made to California law after the passage of AB 5. Therefore, app-based or "gig" workers would also qualify for coverage under the ordinance to both accrue and use sick leave.
- California law presumes that all workers are employees and puts the burden of proof on employers to demonstrate that people working for them are independent contractors by satisfying a three-part test (the ABC test). Therefore, all workers are by default eligible for paid sick leave unless their employer proves otherwise.



If you have questions or concerns, please call the Fair Labor Oakland hotline (510) 646-0521

Business and Worker Support

***The City's Economic and Workforce Development Department created a website for COVID-19 related resources and information for Oakland businesses and workers: [Oaklandbusinesscenter.com](https://oaklandbusinesscenter.com) Please bookmark this link - it will be updated as new information and support becomes available. ***

Tell us what you need. We know that many local businesses and self-employed Oaklanders are anxious about lost income during this time. Oakland wants to know about your experience. If you can, please take a few minutes to [fill out a survey](#) so to help document COVID-19 impacts in Oakland and inform mitigation and recovery programming.

Worker paid sick leave. This is an important time to remind all Oakland employers and employees of Oakland businesses about Oakland's Sick Leave Law and [guidance from the State of California](#) regarding paid leave and unemployment eligibility. [Business tax relief](#). I have learned that City Council may soon consider legislation that could provide some tax relief to small businesses, nonprofits and arts organizations experiencing COVID-19 related distress. We will provide updates as they become available.

Oakland's Open. The [Oakland Chamber of Commerce](#) has launched "Oakland's Open," a crowd-sourced [list of organizations](#) providing modified services during the COVID-19 health emergency. Support these #OAKPROUD organizations where and when you can. Help build the

list by letting the Chamber know how you're adapting and/or which spots you know are operational. The list is open to businesses whether or not they are a Chamber member. Email the [Chamber](#) to be included.

Resources for California small businesses. The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) has shared a new [FAQ for small businesses](#). Find helpful resources on their [COVID-19 Resource Page](#).

Resident Support

General social support: Alameda County provides information about available services for individuals through its 211 service. Call 211 from any phone or visit <http://211alamedacounty.org/>

Health support: If you have health-related questions about COVID-19 or questions about the Shelter-in-Place order please visit the Alameda [County Public Health](#) website. Lots of information, phone and email contact info, and a good FAQ on the order.

City-related issues: As usual, please call 311, email oak311@oaklandca.gov or visit [Oak311](#) to report or ask questions about city services and infrastructure needs.

General information: The Oakland [COVID-19 Updates page](#) is constantly being updated. Staff are working hard to provide **faster translations** of key information and documents.



NEIGHBOR CHECK-INS

COVID-19

Calling all Neighbors

Californians can safely help older adults and those with chronic health issues who are at higher risk from COVID-19. We can all safely do our part to make sure we stay healthy.



Neighbor to Neighbor - Remember, limiting in person contact is important, so call or text if you can. If you want to check on a neighbor and don't have their number, you can talk through the door. Drop off a treat, a book or just a nice note!



Reach out to older adults who live alone - Call, text, video chat! This is a good time to bring back letter writing! If you're an older adult reach out to your friends and family.



Ask how you can help and don't hesitate to ask for help - Older adults are being asked to stay home and may have trouble getting groceries, medication, and other necessities. Ask how you can help and don't hesitate to ask for help yourself.



Find local services - Find out if your community has 211 or call your county social services to get information on services offered.



Be Safe! - Most importantly, remember to follow the California Department of Public Health's guidelines. Visit cdph.ca.gov/COVID19 to make sure we are all safe.

Visit serve.ca.gov

Help California **#MeetTheMoment**



AMIDST THE CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES, YOU CAN STILL:



GO TO THE GROCERY STORE
(BUT, LEAVE THE HOARDING AT THE DOOR)



ORDER TAKE OUT



CALL YOUR FAMILY



HELP NEIGHBORS IN HOME
ISOLATION RUN ERRANDS



READ A BOOK



FILL OUT THE CENSUS

Housing Protection

Tenant support. As mentioned in a previous update, I am working with Councilmember Nikki Bas on Moratorium legislation to prevent tenants from being thrown out of their homes during or as a result of this public health crisis. The legislation, which will include a moratorium on residential *and* commercial evictions and residential rent increases, will be discussed this week at an emergency meeting of City Council this Friday morning. This meeting will be broadcast/streamed for public viewing *and* participation.

******If you feel you are in danger of losing your home call 211 and ask to be connected to Keep Oakland Housed******

Landlord/property owner support. We've heard from rental property owners who are concerned about meeting their mortgage payments - especially if tenants are in effect given rent relief. First of all, please know that I am concerned about the economic impacts this health crisis is having on ALL Oaklanders. I am advocating for eviction and rent increase protections. This does not forgive the need to pay rent altogether.

We are tracking State and Federal efforts push to lenders to halt mortgage payment requirements. But, if you are a property owner and concerned about making your payments, talk to your mortgage lender to get information on what flexibility they may have.

In addition, Oakland officials are talking to Alameda County about property tax issues. We have heard that as of now the due date for the second installment is still April 10th per state law. If property owners cannot pay by the due date for reasons related to COVID-19, you may apply to the County for a waiver of subsequent penalties and interest.

Homelessness and COVID-19

New Resources from Governor Newsom

Last week Governor Newsom [announced new resources](#) for cities like Oakland that bear the brunt of the homelessness crisis in California, including:

- \$100 million directly to local governments for shelter support and emergency housing, following the HHAP allocation methodology. This funding has very broad acceptable use policy to allow local decision making, but it will fall under the 75/25 requirement for local contribution.

Oakland found out on Monday March 23 that it will receive about \$3.2 million from this new source of state funding.

- \$50 million to purchase travel trailers and lease rooms in hotels, motels, and other facilities - in partnership with counties and cities - to provide immediate isolation placements throughout the state for homeless individuals. This funding stream is in addition to the trailers mentioned below.
- 1,300 travel trailers from FEMA and private vendors to provide quarantine capacity. The trailers will be deployed to counties according to 12 large cities with largest homeless populations following PIT count. The State will haul and install the trailers, connect them to hookups, and they will be stocked with blankets, personal items and other household necessities. Oakland is in discussions with Alameda County to identify locations and clients who should be moved into trailers.

City staff participated in a conference call on Monday with County and State OES to obtain clarification and detailed information re: State trailers reserved for Oakland.

- **East Oakland Hotels for Homeless.** As part of this [package of support](#), the State has already negotiated two master lease agreements with two hotels in East Oakland to provide up to 393 rooms for COVID-19 impacted Californians experiencing homelessness. The State is in negotiations with Alameda County to transfer both leases -- the hotels will be operated by the County in partnership with the State; no services or resources are being requested of the City at this time.

The two hotels will serve people from all over Alameda County who are positive/presumptive or who are vulnerable and need to be preventatively isolated. The County hopes to have hotels operational by week's end.

More information about the Governor's program to Protect Homeless Californians from COVID-19 can be found [at this link](#).

Additional information from the State can be found at these links: <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx#>

City of Oakland Update on Homelessness and COVID-19

During a public health emergency, protecting the most vulnerable members of our community enhances everyone's safety. In addition to the [increased safety measures](#) described in my previous updates, Oakland is:

- Working with State and County departments on options for isolation and protecting Oakland's unsheltered population.
- Providing funding to NGOs to increase janitorial services in shelters (supported by the COVID-19 Oakland Relief Fund)
- Launching a partnership with World Central Kitchen to deliver daily meals to Community Cabin and RV sites.

[Read Additional COVID-19 Information here!](#)

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

D A N K A L B

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Follow Dan on [Twitter here](#)

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