

SAFE RE-OPENING UPDATE

A safe & healthy workplace for City employees and the public



CITY OF
OAKLAND

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June 2, 2021

Update on a Safe & Healthy City: More on Re-Opening Plans, Public Health News

Yesterday City Administrator Ed Reiskin provided the City Council with [an update](#) on the City's plans to re-open City facilities to the public, and what the State of California's June 15th re-opening date means for the City of Oakland. Here are key points from his presentation, along with important updates from Alameda County Public Health officials.

Safe Re-Opening Plans

In his presentation to the City Council, Ed shared his gratitude for the **many** City employees who never stopped reporting to work in person throughout the pandemic.

Thanks to the diligence and professionalism of staff who reported in person, and the training and support provided by the City's Public Works and Risk Management staff, **the City has had no workplace COVID outbreaks** or spreader events, even at the height of the pandemic, and conditions are improving every day.

Still, the global pandemic is not over. **Our goal is to take a safe, cautious, intentional, equitable, and thoughtful approach**, with plenty of advanced notice about milestones as we begin to re-open our in-person services to the public inside our City facilities.

As mentioned last week, some departments are beginning to return to in-person service based on operational needs and guided by public health requirements established by the CDC, the CA Department of Public Health, CalOSHA, and the Alameda County Public Health Department.

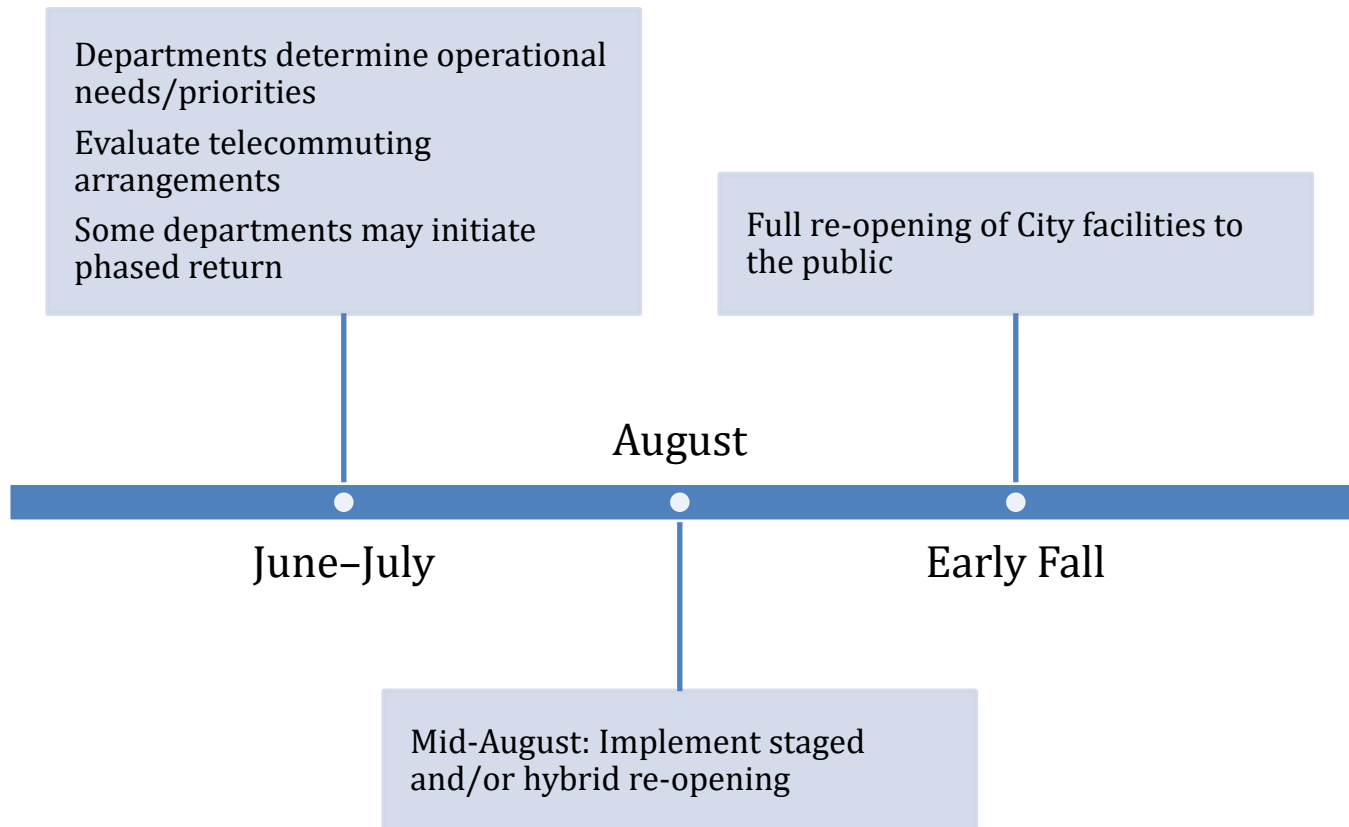
Coming Soon: New Telecommuting Application Process

The City has developed a new [Employee Telecommute Policy/Administrative Instruction](#). Employees interested in an on-going telecommuting arrangement will need to submit a new application and agreement, which must be completed and

approved by your Department. The timeline for applications, responses to the applications, and establishment of new schedules will be announced soon.

Tentative Re-Opening Timeline

Below is a **tentative** timeframe to implement a gradual re-opening of City facilities and resume in-person service delivery; please note that this timeline is preliminary and subject to change:



We Want to Hear from You!

The Safe Re-Opening Task Force would like your feedback as we plan a return to the office for employees who are working remotely. Regardless of your current work situation, **all City employees** are encouraged to complete [this survey](#). It should only take about 3-5 minutes of your time. Please submit your response no later than Friday, June 11 at 5 pm. Thank you in advance!

The Pandemic Required Us to Pivot to Online Service Delivery

While we make plans to re-open our City facilities to the public, over the past year we've done a great job turning lemons into lemonade and moving many City services online. Here's a snapshot of our work to meet the public where they are—on smart phones and online 24/7:

- **Website traffic increased by 30%** during the height of the pandemic (March—June 2020), going from 705k unique visitors in 2019 to 1.15M over the same period in 2020
- We launched a COVID-19 webpage to serve as the clearing house for guidance and information, receiving over 187k unique views.
 - 98k unique visitors were seeking COVID testing information
 - In June 2020, 25k people used our online referral process to sign up for COVID-19 testing
 - A list of 13k subscribers received 43 emails with news and updates about service impacts
- We moved business services online, developing a business support page for all federal, state and local resources.
 - Since launch, this web page has had more than 33k unique visitors.
 - 46 Business Update emails have gone out in 5 different languages, helping businesses stay informed.
 - Launched an online permitting process for Flex Streets that has resulted in: 100 sidewalk cafes and parklets; 13 street closures; 14 permitted private spaces; 40+ mobile food trucks permits.
- Finance launched a chatbot on the City's website in August where they have served over 5k people, averaging a 44-second response time and a cumulative satisfaction rating of 4.1 out of 5 stars.

From Our Partners at Alameda County Public Health

Highly-effective and safe COVID-19 vaccines are making it safer for us to reopen. If you aren't vaccinated yet or haven't completed your vaccination series, we strongly encourage you to drop in our [community-based sites](#) or [make an appointment](#) to protect yourself from COVID-19.

Get ready for June 15 by getting vaccinated and wearing masks until more Alameda County residents are protected from COVID-19. If you have questions about which vaccine is right for you, speak with a health care provider. While the benefits of getting vaccinated far outweigh potential risks, people should become familiar with how vaccines may impact them.

You have a choice – get vaccinated or get COVID-19. The longer you wait to get vaccinated, the greater the risk of contracting COVID-19 and becoming seriously ill or spreading it to a friend, loved one or co-worker. Visit our [website](#) for more information on all three currently approved vaccines.

Your mask protects everyone, your vaccine protects you. Still not sure about vaccine or worried about things you may have heard? Visit [Greater Than COVID](#) to view videos by Black and Latinx health care workers who answer questions about COVID-19. Doctors, nurses, researchers and promotoras provide facts and dispel misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccines in *The Conversation/La Conversacion*, an FAQ video series from the Kaiser Family Foundation with the Black Coalition Against COVID and UnidosUS.

Get tested if you are sick – whether or not you are vaccinated. Even after getting the #COVID19 vaccine, it's important to get tested if you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or if your job requires that you get tested. If you're vaccinated and have been exposed to the virus, you may spread it to others, even though you are protected. [Find](#) a testing site near you.

Alameda County offers family days and drop-in access for priority neighborhoods. Vaccine will be offered through County and State partners, health care providers, pediatricians, and pop-up clinics at schools and organizations that serve youth and families. Visit our [Where to get a Vaccine](#) page to see a regularly updated list of community, state, and health care providers who are offering vaccines. Visit our [youth vaccination facts](#) page for more information.

Masking

The State will keep existing mask guidance in place until June 15, when California plans to fully reopen the economy. Currently, all workplaces must continue to follow Cal/OSHA's standards, including current masking requirements.

Cal/OSHA is expected to adopt new workplace guidance for employers, potentially this week. Employers may continue to enforce public health best practices (masks, distancing) to maintain a safe & healthy workplace. We are tracking developments closely and will provide updates as we learn more.

Cloth face coverings are required while at work for the City of Oakland, even if you are vaccinated, in keeping with State and County guidance. Please review the City's [Face Covering Requirements](#) for more details.

For More Information

- [Employee Resources](#) section of City's COVID website—provides a one-stop shop for City employees looking for information, policies, forms, and updates
- [Frequently Asked Questions for City Employees](#)—provides detailed guidance on COVID-related leave policies, COVID testing for City employees, what to do if you are exposed to COVID, quarantine/isolation guidelines, etc.

- House Calls for Vaccinations: Oaklanders who need a vaccination should visit [this site](#) or call **510-208-4VAX**. Residents who need an in-home vaccination can call **1-833-422-4255** or visit www.myturn.ca.gov
- News, stats and information from the [Alameda County Department of Public Health](#)
- Updates from the [California Department of Public Health](#)