



Office of the City Manager

Date: October 28, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: **Updates on COVID-19 Vaccination Rates for the General Berkeley Population**

This memo is intended to provide an update on COVID-19 vaccination rates in Berkeley along with answers to some questions frequently asked by councilmembers and concerned citizens.

As of Tuesday, October 24, 2022, the percentage of Berkeley residents who have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccination series is 95% and those who have completed their first booster is 84%. Among children under 5 years, 33.7% have completed their primary vaccination series in Berkeley, compared to 16.8% for Alameda County, and 5.3% for all of California. The percentage of children aged 5-11 years with their first booster is 44.5% in Berkeley.

Currently, the City's Epidemiology team is unable to provide reliable estimates of bivalent booster uptake. The vaccination data uploaded into the State's database is shared with local jurisdictions and at this time, Berkeley only receives information on primary series and additional doses. CDPH COVID vaccine team has published statewide and county-level bivalent booster rates on their [public dashboard](#). When data is available to identify bivalent boosters for the City of Berkeley, the epidemiology team will be able to provide this information.

### **1) How frequently are we doing vaccine clinics?**

In partnership with Carbon Health, the City hosts a weekly community-based vaccine clinic (50-200 appointments based on demand) and smaller mobile clinics for vulnerable populations such as shelter residents, homebound residents and their caregivers/family members, and senior housing complexes. Anyone over the age of 6 months can receive their primary vaccine series and eligible individuals can receive their Bivalent booster at these City coordinated clinics.

On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> the City stood up a Bivalent booster clinic for children 5-11 years old at Malcolm X elementary school. At this clinic, 223 Bivalent boosters and 2 primary COVID vaccines were administered. The City and BUSD have collaborated on an outreach plan to reach medically vulnerable students, students who are designated as English Language Learners, and those who qualify for Free or Reduced-price lunch before being shared with the general public. Beginning Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Bivalent booster for anyone over the age of 5 will be available at all City-coordinated vaccine events.

Through the end of October, community-based clinics will be held every Tuesday at the South Berkeley Library from 11:00-6:00 PM. During November and December, the weekly community-

based clinics will be held on Saturdays from 9:00-4:00 at Rosa Parks elementary school. The shift to Saturday clinics will increase access to families who work outside of the home and encourage all family members over the age of 5 to get their Bivalent booster.

Additionally, in partnership with Bayer and Safeway, the City of Berkeley will be hosting another round of drive-up vaccine clinics on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a convenient way for our community to get the Bivalent booster before the holidays. The clinics will be held in the Bayer parking lot located at 2500 Eighth Street from 9:30-4:00. **First, second, and Bivalent booster doses will be available for those over the age of 12.** Schedule an appointment today using the link below.

<https://www.mhealthsystem.com/BayerBerkeleyCOVIDClinic>

## **2) Should we reactivate our equity roundtable to work on focused vaccine outreach and strategies?**

The City of Berkeley currently contracts with four community-based organizations (Capoeira Arts Foundation, the Hoover Neighborhood Association, LifeLong Medical Center, and the Multicultural Institute) to engage in COVID-19 community education and outreach activities. These activities include hosting vaccine events, distribution of at-home test kits, tabling at community events, hosting workshops, sharing updated information and resources, and door-knocking campaigns.

The COVID-19 Response Team, housed within the HHCS Health Officer Unit, convenes a monthly collaborative meeting with these partners to encourage cross-agency collaboration and alignment with the City's vaccine and COVID-19 response equity goals.

## **3) Should we do a booster public information campaign?**

This spring and early summer, HHCS contracted with information campaign specialists RALLY to conduct information campaigns targeted to specific audiences. Below is a summary of vaccine and testing outreach activities planned through the end of the calendar year.

- Continuous updates to the City's Testing and Vaccine webpage
- Direct outreach to community-based and faith-based organizations
- Ongoing collaboration with contracted community-based organizations described in the response above
- Senior outreach campaign mailer sent to the home of all Berkeley residents (6,000 unduplicated residences) over the age of 60 who identify as African American/Black, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino to share information about the efficacy of the Bivalent booster, how/where to access the Bivalent booster, and the importance of testing early and getting early treatment
- Door-knocking campaign in the four Census tracts with the lowest vaccine rates
- Shifting vaccine clinics from Tuesdays to Saturdays during November & December
- In collaboration with community-based and faith-based organizations, continue to distribute at-home test kits to vulnerable populations and those who face barriers to

accessing at-home test kits along with information about the importance of testing early and receiving treatment early

- In partnership with the Youthworks Employment Program, designed *Youth Health Justice Internships* to support youth communicating factual COVID information, including the efficacy of vaccines, to other youth and to the community. Cohort 1 began on 10/24/22 with 16 Berkeley High School students and 3 students from Berkeley City College. There are 16 youths on the Cohort 2 waiting list which begins in late January.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager  
LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager  
Jenny Wong, City Auditor  
Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing and Community Services Department