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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cortese Calls for Measures to Help Vulnerable Populations as Coronavirus Spreads in the County

With a focus on protecting members of the County's most vulnerable populations, Supervisor Dave Cortese called on administrators to step up the use of resources to combat the spread of COVID-19 among those in homeless camps, jails and senior centers.

"While the health of all County residents is the No. 1 priority, we need to be especially concerned about those who are medically fragile, may not have access to information and are older adults in care homes or who frequently visit senior centers," Supervisor Cortese said. "We know that those with underlying medical conditions and adults over age 50 are especially vulnerable to this virus."

At the March 10 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Cortese called for:

- Ending abatement, or sweeps, of homeless camps to keep unhoused communities together in order to provide testing and care if a resident should be confirmed with COVID-1.
- Conducting arraignments of suspects through video technology instead of transporting them from jail to the courthouse. This could save money that could be used for slowing the spread of the virus.

- Monitoring older residents through the County's Senior Nutrition Program and providing them information on how to keep healthy. Also, making sure that information is posted at senior centers throughout the County.
- Creating a series of virtual town halls through the Internet so that people could ask questions and receive answers without assembling in groups.

Supervisor Cortese's direction to administrators came after a presentation of panels of experts who were called to answer questions about the extent of the spread of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County, how the County is protecting residents, what residents should do to protect themselves and their families and what strategies are being used to communicate to vulnerable populations, including seniors and homeless individuals and groups.

To watch the video presentation and discussion, visit the County's [meeting portal](#) and click on Item 7 of the March 10 agenda. For updated information on the coronavirus and Public Health guidelines, visit sccgov.org/coronavirus.

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