Dear Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Shelter in Place Order issued to slow down its progress caused many to lose their jobs across the country and in Santa Clara County. A sudden loss of income, of course, leads immediately to the inability to pay rent and stay housed, especially in this County where a very large percentage of income is needed to pay for housing.

Last month, the Board enacted a moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent for tenants who have suffered substantial income loss and out-of-pocket medical expenses because of the pandemic. This moratorium applies throughout the County, including cities and protects both residential as well as small business tenants.

The ban on evictions is in effect through May 31, but the Board could also extend it, if needed. The County Office of Supportive Housing’s website provides information for tenants and landlords and connections to housing assistance resources. Visit the Eviction Moratorium Page for details.

The San Jose City Council has extended its temporary ban on residential evictions until May 31. And at Tuesday’s meeting, the City Council will call for a prohibition on rent increases until December 31.

Today’s Public Health Department’s Facebook live-streamed briefing focused on how tenants and landlords can navigate through this tough time, so no one is unhoused.

Homeless individuals in need of assistance may contact the Homeless Helpline operated by HomeFirst at 408-510-7600 or outreach@homefirstscc.org. The Office of Supporting Housing also has set up a crisis hotline at 408-278-6420 for homeless persons needing shelter or those without adequate isolation. It is answered seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with messages picked up from the evening before.

Coronavirus Update

As of today, the County Public Health Department reports that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 is 1,870 and with 73 deaths. The Public Health Department website’s dashboards are updated daily. Check sccphd.org/covid19 for more information.

Radio Town Hall Series

Please join my Weekly Radio Town Hall series on Saturdays focused on answering your questions about COVID-19 and what the County is doing to help.
Food Sector Workers to Receive Two Weeks Paid Sick Leave

Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order yesterday to support California workers of large employers in the food industry with two weeks of paid sick leave, if they are subject to a quarantine or isolation order or medical directive. The order covers workers throughout the food chain in California, including farmworkers, agricultural workers, grocery store employees, fast food chain employees, and delivery drivers. The order is meant to fill the gap left by federal relief that provides similar paid leave benefits for employers with fewer than 500 workers. Read the full press release and text of the order here.

Resources for Youth during COVID-19

The Legal Advocates for Children & Youth program of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley has put together a community resource guide in response to the public health crisis. This guide specifically targets transitional age youth.
Virtual Earth Day Presentations

In 2017, I led the County’s partnership with Our City Forest to plant 1,000 trees in unincorporated county pockets and work with local governments and agencies to build a comprehensive urban forest, a critical green infrastructure tool. Next week, to celebrate Earth Month, Our City Forest will be live streaming Planet Tree presentations on their Instagram and Youtube page.

You can reach my office at 408-299-5030, email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org or visit my website at www.supervisorcortese.org. Thank you again for all you are doing to help your community through this crisis.

Stay safe,

Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District

Click here to manage your communication preferences