Dear Friends,

While the County’s Public Health Officer, Dr. Sara Cody, is not legally mandating that we wear face coverings when leaving home, she is strongly urging us to do so. Covering your nose and mouth, as well as social distancing, are two of the tools that we can all do. Simple acts, but they are working to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Some Bay Area counties recently legally ordered residents to wear face coverings when leaving their homes. Santa Clara County, instead, is asking residents to follow the guidelines when going to the grocery store, pharmacy, or riding on public transit. When at home or when exercising outdoors, it is recommended that residents have a face covering readily available even when they’re not wearing it at the moment.

The protection became especially important when it was discovered that 25% of people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic. That means they don’t have any symptoms, such as a fever, cough, fatigue or shortness of breath. But they can still spread the virus.

Face coverings are not the same as N-95 masks or surgical masks that health care workers need to wear. We need to reserve the professional masks for our health care workers. You can wear a bandana, scarf, towel or other piece of cloth or fabric. You don’t even need to know how to sew. There are plenty of videos showing how you can make a face covering from a cloth and rubber bands.

If everyone wears face coverings in public, we can reduce the spread of infection. The County’s Facebook Live briefing today was about social distancing, and provided some very good reminders about what this term means.

First of all, six feet is a minimum distance to keep from someone you are not living with. The farther the better. It may be difficult to maintain distance when you’re in a grocery store, for example, so if you see a line that extends outside, you may want to shop at another time. Ask yourself, "Do I really need to be here right now?"

If you do need to go, make sure only one member of your family makes the trip. Gone are the days, for now, when the family piled in the car to go shopping together.

Think about the essential workers, such as the grocery store clerks, who are putting themselves out there to keep the stores open so we can feed ourselves and our families. The last thing you want to do is put them at risk for infection.

Some of us may be tempted to have small gatherings in driveways or on porches and stay six feet apart. Instead, please use social media platforms or the telephone to keep in touch. Wave to your neighbors from your front porch, but refrain from social contact even if you are wearing a face covering.
I know it’s difficult. Some of us haven’t seen our relatives and other people we love in person for more than a month. But we need to keep following the public health guidelines while the Shelter in Place Order in place. Thank you for your cooperation.

Visit the County of Santa Clara COVID-19 website for frequent updates.

**Coronavirus Update**

Because of some difficulty in data sharing, the Coronavirus Cases Dashboard has not been updated since Friday, April 17. But check back later today for an update. The last count was 1,870 confirmed cases and 73 deaths in Santa Clara County.

**Join the Board Meeting on April 21**

The Board of Supervisors will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, by teleconferencing. There are several items about coronavirus on the agenda, including a report from the County’s Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody, Item #12. To join the meeting, visit the Clerk of the Board’s meeting portal page and follow the directions.

**Town Halls to Stay Informed on COVID-19**

Please join my Weekly Radio Town Hall series on Wednesdays and Saturdays focused on answering your questions about COVID-19 and what the County is doing to help residents.

Tune in to KCXU 92.7FM San Jose Community Radio Wednesday, April 22, Wednesday, April 29 and Wednesday, May 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. Call in to the station at 408-634-8086 to get your questions answered on air. You can also text my office at 408-480-7833 in case you aren’t able to have your call connected to the radio station. These Town Halls will be in English with a recorded Spanish translation available upon request.

Tune in to KSJX 1500AM Multicultural Radio Saturday, April 25 and Saturday, May 2 from 7 to 8 p.m. Call in to the station at 408-914-0183 to get your questions answered on air. You can also text my office at 408-480-7833 in case you aren’t able to connect to the station. We will be...
sure to answer every question that is
texted to us. These Town Halls will be in
English with a recorded Vietnamese
translation available upon request.

Webinar on Eviction Moratorium and Other Housing Issues

Join Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese, the Asian Law Alliance, Bay Area
Legal Aid, the Law Foundation of Silicon
Valley, and the City of San José Housing
Department this Tuesday, April 21 from
7:00pm to 8:30pm for ICAN's online forum
on the recent eviction moratorium and
other housing-related issues during
COVID-19.

This online forum will be livestreamed here:
https://www.facebook.com/
ICANSiliconValley/live

An Update on PPE Donations from My Office

Thank you to the Silicon Valley Chinese Computer and Commerce Association for your
generous donation through my office of 500 sets of Personal Protective gear for our
frontline healthcare heroes at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. My office staff helped
make the deliveries last Friday. To date, our office has been able to raise over $7,000 for
protective equipment for our county’s healthcare workers. To support our frontline heroes
fighting COVID-19, donate at this link: https://tinyurl.com/SCCHealthcareWorkers.
County Resources

The Santa Clara County Social Services Agency continues to help enroll residents into programs that provide cash aid, food assistance, and healthcare. For more information, please call 1-877-962-3633.

CalFresh applications are being accepted over the phone for residents who need help buying food. Use this link to apply online or call Second Harvest Food Bank's Food Connection hotline at 1-800-984-3663.

Resources for Aging Adults

AARP CA has launched the California For All resource card, a one-stop information guide on COVID-19 for all Californians. The resource card includes information on how to get caregiving support, how to stay safe at home, how to find important resources through the California Aging and Adults Information line, contacts to report fraud, abuse, neglect, and more.

Santa Clara County’s Meals on Wheels program, operated by the Health Trust, is available to provide hot, nutritious meals for homebound seniors. Information on how to sign up can be found here: tinyurl.com/CorteseMeals.

The Institute on Aging has created a 24-hour toll-free crisis line for people aged 60 years and older, and adults living with disabilities. Seniors can call this line toll-free at 1-800-971-0016.

The following grocery store outlets are open to those aged 60 and older that are symptom-free:

- Zanotto’s – every day 8 to 9 am
- Whole Foods – every day 8 to 9 am
- Dollar General - every day during the first hour of business
- Albertsons - only on Tuesdays and Thursdays 7 to 9 am
- Safeway - only on Tuesdays and Thursdays 7 to 9 am
- Target - only on Wednesday during the first hour of business

To find resources serving Santa Clara County’s older adult residents, visit mysourcewise.com.

Virtual Job Fair

Work2future in collaboration with San Jose City College will host a Virtual Job Fair on Wednesday, April 29 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 25 employers from healthcare, government, business, finance, manufacturing, hospitality, construction, and other industries will be onsite recruiting for over a hundred open positions. Free online registration is encouraged.
**Free Online Cultural and Educational Opportunities**

Free online courses are being offered by Ivy League Schools and other Universities, as well as free cultural enrichment opportunities from [Museums](#), [Symphonies](#), and [Theaters](#).

You can reach my office at 408-299-5030, email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org or visit the [District 3 website](#) for more information and questions.

Stay safe,

Dave Cortese  
County Supervisor, Third District

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Click [here](#) to manage your communication preferences