Dear Friends,

The County’s Public Health Department is using a new method to update the dashboard that shows the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County. Cases will now be reported by the date of the test, not the date of the results. This change will more closely represent the timing of the spread of the virus. The dashboard will be updated this afternoon.

Over the weekend, the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department announced 10 new deaths from COVID-19, bringing the total number of deaths to 83 in Santa Clara County. The County also reported 52 new cases, bringing our total number of confirmed cases to 1,922. That represents a 9.88% positivity rate across 19,463 total tests with 250 testing results pending.

There are currently 189 hospitalizations due to COVID-19 with 82 of those cases in ICUs. Countywide, there are 597 acute hospital beds, 86 ICU beds, and 1,615 surge beds available. There are 671 of 857 total ventilators available across all hospitals.

Join me Tomorrow for a Virtual Earth Day Conference

Join me, the Foundation for Climate Restoration, GlobalMindED, and WAAS at 8 a.m. tomorrow, April 22, for a conference on Earth Day’s 50th Anniversary. I will be joining a panel discussion on “Governments, Diplomacy, and Grassroots Activism.” Diplomats, policymakers, faith leaders and activists will discuss the role of diplomacy and grassroots activism in the climate restoration movement.

The results of that first Earth Day were significant: new laws to protect the air we breathe and water we drink; an awareness of how humans and all species are connected to the health of the planet; and a commitment to move forward in a more sustainable manner. Let's use the 50th anniversary of Earth Day to mark the beginning of the next environmental success story.

Restoring the climate will require governments at all levels to collaborate and enact resolutions and regulations that support climate restoration. Register for the event at this link.
Join Our Radio and Online Town Hall on Wednesday

Please join Supervisor Dave Cortese's Weekly Radio Town Hall series on Wednesday focused on answering your questions about COVID-19 and what the County is doing to help residents. Tune in to KCXU 92.7 FM 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 the Office of Supervisor Cortese at 408-480-7833 in case you aren't able to have your call connected to the radio station. We will be sure to answer every question that is texted to us.

These town halls will be in English with a recorded Spanish translation available upon request. The radio station gets coverage in the following neighborhoods: Alviso, North San Jose, Alum Rock, Little Portugal, Japantown, Downtown, Little Italy, The Alameda, Rose Garden, Santana Row, Willow Glen, Little Saigon, Evergreen, and Naglee.

For those who want to participate who do not live in these neighborhoods, you can access the live stream of this show as well as the recorded show later at this link: https://www.spreaker.com/show/santa-clara-county-radio-town-halls

Webinar on Eviction Moratorium and Other Housing Issues Tonight

Join me, the Asian Law Alliance, Bay Area Legal Aid, the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, and the City of San José Housing Department today, April 21, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. 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.

We know this is a difficult time and that there is a lot fear and hardship. We hope tenants feel safe and comfortable using this new law to stay in their homes.
West Valley Community Services Providing Support

West Valley Community Services is offering financial assistance and food support for households impacted by COVID-19. If you or anyone you know has been affected by schools and/or business closures, loss of jobs or hourly earnings, or are now taking care of dependent older adults amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, contact West Valley Community Services.

For more information, referrals, and services, email recert@wvcommunityservices.org or call (408) 366-6092. All appointments and consultations will be done by phone or video.

Diaper and Family Activity Kit Distribution

FIRST 5 of Santa Clara County is happy to announce the launch of the countywide distribution of 548,100 diapers, 1,218,000 baby wipes and 2,700 Family Activity Kits at various school student meal distribution sites. Please see the color-coded calendar linked here for specific dates, times and locations of distribution in your area.

Tele-Town Hall with State Insurance Commissioner

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President Cindy Chavez and California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara will present a tele-townhall on insurance issues during the pandemic emergency. It will begin at noon on Thursday, April 23. Supervisor Chavez is asking that questions be submitted in advance by Wednesday, April 22 by emailing beth.willon@bos.sccgov.org or through Supervisor Chavez’s twitter account @SupCindyChavez. You will be able to listen to the tele-townhall by calling 408-638-0968 or 669-900-6833.

For questions about coverage, you can call Department of Insurance at 800-927-4357 or visit www.insurance.ca.gov.

Helping the Homeless Who Are Battling COVID-19

About 600 individuals or households have been placed in emergency shelters, hotels, motels, and inns, and other temporary shelters since March 1. Additionally, almost 300 formerly homeless individuals or households have obtained permanent housing.

The County has partnered with eight local hotels, motels, and inns, securing 453 rooms, for COVID-19 isolation and quarantine. Governor Gavin Newsom also announced an agreement with Motel 6 to add to the County’s capacity to house unsheltered and unhoused residents.

Last Thursday, a team from the Public Defender’s Office visited a homeless camp near Thompson Creek in District 3 to hand out hygiene kits that included socks, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, tissues, swabs and home-made face coverings. The team also provided information on court dates. To date, the Public Defender’s Office has raised more than $6,000 in private donations.

School Lunches during Spring Break

Through the City of San Jose’s Silicon Valley Strong Initiative and the countywide food distribution collaborative, Santa Clara County school districts are working together to ensure children have access to food during spring break by redirecting them to a different school district location.

For information on the site nearest you, visit bit.ly/svstrongyouth. Also, visit the Santa Clara County Office of Education website for the most up-to-date information about site closures and meal distribution.

San Jose Launches Virtual Recreation Center
The City of San Jose’s Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department has launched a Virtual Recreation Center to provide physical and mental health through the Internet. The VRC will include links to live pilot classes, recorded entertainment, online resources and educational activities for all ages. The Virtual Recreation Center will feature PRNS community centers, partners, attractions like Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, 36-degree park views and more. Check it out at bit.ly/sjvirtualrec.

Unemployment Hotline Now Open 7 Days a Week

The California Employment Development Department call center is now open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Residents are encouraged to use UI Online for the fastest and most convenient way to file or reopen your claim and get up-to-date claim and payment information. Smartphone and tablet users can use UI Online Mobile.

Customers can call 833-978-2511 for technical help with accessing UI Online and other general unemployment insurance questions. Representatives will not have access to your claim or payment information. New claims can be filed at 1-800-300-1516.

EDD will also start assisting residents with the new federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program starting Tuesday, April 28. PUA benefits are distinct from unemployment benefits and cover the self-employed, employees who lack sufficient work history, gig workers, and independent contractors. Read the FAQ about eligibility and benefit amounts.

Childcare Resources for Essential Workers

If you are an essential worker and you need childcare in order to work, you can visit the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) web page for links to various childcare programs for essential workers: https://www.sccoe.org/covid-19/childcare/Pages/childcare-essential.aspx.

Another resource to support you in securing childcare is through contacting Community Child Care Council of Santa Clara County (4C’s) childcare resource and referral agency. They can support essential workers in finding childcare spaces and funding at www.4c.org or call 408-487-0749.

Opportunities to Donate to Local Community Efforts

A group of inspirational young women have organized the “COVID Cavaliers“ fundraiser to go towards N95 masks and face shields for hospitals in the San Jose area. Thank you to students Shloka, Anika, Pavitra, Zara, Saniya, Varsha, and Danielle for launching this effort for our community. You can donate in support of this fund at this link.

My office’s partnership with local community organizations, including the Sikh Food Pantry, to offer an Emergency Community Pantry continues. If you’d like to donate to help fund this pantry, please visit this link: http://tinyurl.com/SVEmergencyPantry.

Happy 100th Birthday to Mary Fierros

A Very Happy Belated Birthday to San Jose resident Mary Fierros who turned 100 on April 20. I had the pleasure of meeting Mary on August 26, 2019, at a celebration of the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage at the Martin Luther King Library in San Jose.

During World War II, Mary was one of the many women who worked in the defense industry on military equipment to keep the
soldiers able to fight the war. She is Santa Clara County’s Rosie the Riveter, and one of the few who is still with us. She is a guest at the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown San Jose, sitting on the VIP viewing stage. Last year, she was in the parade.

On Monday, Mary was treated to a parade of friends and relatives who drove by her house to help her celebrate the momentous occasion. Congratulations, Mary, and thank you for your service to the country and to our community!

Stay safe,

Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District

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