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Cortese Calls for Coronavirus Transparency

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To: Gnosis Test Email <michaelefranzino@gmail.com>

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Dear Friends,

The news that there were at least three deaths from COVID-19 earlier than we had known – and the likelihood that there were many more – clearly raises the need for transparency to the public from the County as we navigate through this pandemic.

The deaths occurred in February and early March, before what we believed was the first death from Coronavirus on March 9. These three individuals died at home during a time when very limited testing was available only through the CDC. As the Medical Examiner-Coroner continues to investigate deaths throughout the county, additional deaths from COVID-19 will most likely be identified.

Because the individuals had not traveled recently, their infections came from community transmission, indicating that the coronavirus was with us long before it was detected. In light of this information, I am calling for the county to redouble its efforts to release information about all deaths from COVID-19 and tie data points together to provide a completely candid analysis of the information we have.

On April 17, I requested public records from the Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office on the number of deaths for the first three months of this calendar year. I received those late Monday evening, and learned that COVID-19-related deaths may have been underreported from January through March 2020.

I'm disappointed the Coroner did not notify the Board of Supervisors of this upward trend of deaths of 20 to 25%, which could translate to more than 300 additional deaths in Santa Clara County compared to the same period in 2019, much of which appear may be from the infectious disease.

During the Tuesday, March 21, Board of Supervisors meeting, I asked that frequent dashboard information from the Coroner's office -- twice per month -- be provided to the board and to the public on ALL deaths in the county, regardless of attribution, assumed causation, or other filtering.

Our efforts here in Santa Clara County have been heroic, overall. And I am proud of our residents and government officials. But we can only increase the public trust and increase our own understanding of what we are up against by bringing forward all the data we have regarding the pandemic.

Please contact my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org for concerns and questions.

[Coronavirus Update](#)

The Public Health Department will release new data today about race and ethnicity of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County on its data dashboard. To keep up to date with information, visit the [Public Health website](#).

As of April 21, 2020, there are 1,962 confirmed cases and 94 confirmed deaths from COVID-19 in Santa Clara County. Among these 1,962 cases, the race/ethnicity breakdowns of cases are as follows:

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 22.5%
- African American/Black: 2.0%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 35.9%
- White, Non-Hispanic: 18.9%
- Other: 3.9%
- Unknown: 16.7%

The County recognizes that social determinants of health, including race/ethnicity, employment, and income may significantly affect the distribution of cases and the severity of cases across the community. The County and its community partners are actively working together to support and provide needed resources to communities who may be more vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 through multiple strategies.

Join Our Radio and Online Town Hall Today

San Jose Community Radio

**WEEKLY COVID-19
RADIO TOWN HALLS**

w/ Supervisor Dave Cortese

KCXU 92.7 FM

Wednesday April 22, 2020
Wednesday April 29, 2020
Wednesday May 06, 2020

6:00 - 7:00pm PST

Call in and Ask Your Questions:
(408) 634-8086

Text Your Questions:
(408) 480-7833

Learn More : tara.sreekrishnan@bos.sccgov.org

Please join me for my 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 today, 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>

Free Screening App

"EnSofia" has created a COVID-19 [screening app](#) and Hotline (408) 413-4555. All you need is a phone and a PIN that you create to access your report and symptom checker. People who aren't tech savvy, don't have an email address, or an internet connection other than a smart phone can still access the symptom checker using the Hotline 408-413-4555. Personalized symptom reports can be forwarded to healthcare professionals to

enhance hospital or clinic efficiency. Clinics can also customize questionnaires for their patient population.

Silicon Valley Clean Energy Customer Relief

Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) is committing \$10 million to programs providing relief to customers and communities. The programs will include direct financial support for lower-income customers, resiliency improvements at community and emergency facilities, and supplemental training programs for electrical, plumbing and mechanical workers impacted by shelter-in-place orders. [Learn more here.](#)

PG&E and SVCE customers who have had recent changes in their finances or have lost their job, even if receiving unemployment benefits, may be eligible for a reduced energy rate through CARE and FERA programs. To see if you qualify and to apply visit [this webpage.](#)

USPS Delivery Changes

Due to COVID-19, the U.S. Postal Services is making a variety of [service changes](#). Two- and three-day service commitments for First-Class Package Service and Priority Mail is being extended to three and four. However, overnight and one-day Priority Mail will not change. Return to Sender timeframes will generally be extended from 15 to 30 days. International shipping has been suspended to many countries. The list of countries with mail service interruption is updated frequently [here.](#)

Free Webinar on Legal and Financial Help for Small Businesses

Companies, nonprofit organizations, independent contractors, and sole proprietors are invited to join a free webinar on April 23 at 3 p.m. presented by the City of San José that will provide help with the legal, financial, and operational challenges created by COVID-19. An experienced attorney will address these subjects and answer your questions live. Register for the webinar at bit.ly/SS-RSVP-0423. Check out other upcoming workshops at bit.ly/SS-calendar.

Watch Local Arts Performances Online

Several Santa Clara County-based arts organizations are offering free and low-cost versions of concerts and shows to area residents. All of them are also accepting donations in these tough times.

[City Lights Theater Company](#) presents a preview performance of the world premiere of “Coded,” written and directed by Kirsten Brandt, about female game designers. [Viewing](#) is free, but the company is asking for pay-what-you-can donations.

[The Hammer Theater](#) is partnering with National Theatre At Home to present specially selected and family-friendly titles to stream for free. [Titles](#) are available for one week only. Select screening will also hold post-screening discussion webinars hosted by San José State University faculty on Sundays at 4 p.m.

[Magical Bridge Foundation](#) is hosting a series of live-streamed family-friendly music and entertainment performances daily at noon on its [Facebook page](#). Performances will be archived for all to access on the page later.

[Opera San Jose](#) is streaming a performance of Mozart’s Idomeneo, the story of a Trojan princess who falls in love with a Greek prince. The [stream](#) is free through May 18.

[San Jose Jazz](#) is hosting a “Live From Home” virtual performance series, featuring artists performing a 30-minute concert live via San Jose Jazz’s [Facebook page](#) at 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. A donation link will be set up for each live stream with all proceeds going to the artists.

[Teatro Visión](#) is streaming a series of videos from January's performance of "Luz: A Shadow Play Inspired by Senior Stories" by Cristal González Avila. Watch for free on their [YouTube page](#).

[TheatreWorks Silicon Valley](#) is streaming its hit musical version of "Pride and Prejudice." The show will be available for \$4.99 rental or \$19.99 purchase at www.streamingmusicals.com.

Stay safe,



Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District



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