Dear Friends,

According to a poll released today, 75 percent of Californians support the Shelter in Place order even though it presents an economic hardship. The poll also showed that 88 percent say they frequently avoided unnecessary trips out of the home in the last week while 78 percent say they routinely wear a mask in public spaces all or most of the time.

The survey, which was conducted April 17-22 by the California Health Care Foundation and survey firm Ipsos, gives me an opportunity to once again thank the residents of Santa Clara County for following the Shelter in Place guidelines to protect yourselves and your community.

With warm and sunny weather in the forecast for the weekend, I'd also like to remind you that you can enjoy the outdoors and even visit county parks and open spaces, but only if you follow the instructions from the County Parks Department.

- Stay a minimum of 6 feet away from people you do not live with.
- Yield to others and maintain a safe distance at all times.
- Wait your turn at trailheads and park entrances to maintain a safe distance from others at all times.
- Do not park in a crowded parking lot or use a crowded trail. Park in main parking lots to avoid crowded trailhead parking on weekends.
- Choose less frequented parks and trails by checking park agency websites for recommendations. See County Parks wide-trail park maps here.
- Shorten your visit to give others an opportunity for a safe experience.
- Return home to shelter in place immediately following your outing.
- Click here for more information on keeping safe outdoors during the pandemic.

**County to Waive Penalties on Property Tax Payments**

In light of the economic hit local residents are experiencing during the COVID-19 crisis, the Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday to waive the 10 percent penalty and $20 fee on property tax payments that were due on April 10 but paid late.

The Board also asked administration to let property owners know about payment options. The County’s acceptance of partial payment of property taxes began in the 2017-2018 Tax Year, and allows property owners to make multiple payments on their property tax installments.

And we asked that administration return to the Board with possible relief measures for taxpayers on the unpaid second installment of property taxes due on July 1, 2020, including a waiver, reduction or refund of penalties and fees.

You can read the full proposal here. Or call my office at 408-299-5030 if you have questions.
Coronavirus Update

As of April 24, 2020, there were 2,018 confirmed cases and 98 confirmed deaths from COVID-19 in Santa Clara County, with 176 people in the hospital. Most of the cases, 1,344 are in San Jose. The dashboards are updated daily at the Public Health website.

Observing Ramadan During Pandemic

I would like to send warm wishes to all the Muslims in District 3 and throughout the County who began observing Ramadan on Thursday, April 23. The Islamic holy month of Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, fasting, prayer and charity. It is usually a time for communal prayer in local mosques and Islamic centers, but because of the coronavirus in our communities, these gatherings will not be possible. I know this is a big challenge for the Muslim community, so I am sending best wishes to all that are honoring the practice of Ramadan over the weeks ahead.

Bay Area Muslims are a part of the fabric of our community and are recognized for their contributions, rich cultural heritage and the wide diversity that they bring. In this challenging time of uncertainty, let us come together and recognize that faith, good deeds, and diversity in worship are beautiful things, and support one another.

In the News

On Thursday, April 23, I joined Viet Tu Te Charity, Di Lac Temple and Viet Bay TV in donating 1,000 N95 masks and 15,000 pairs of gloves to the Valley Medical Foundation for use in Santa Clara County hospitals. Watch news coverage of the event here.

Get Counted in the 2020 Census

Did you know you can improve your community for the next 10 years and still practice social distancing? Join me and thousands who are participating in the #2020Census right now. In just a few minutes we can ensure we receive resources for healthcare, emergency services, public safety and schools for the next decade. Get counted at My2020Census.gov or by toll-free call to 844-330-2020.

Upcoming Town Halls Regarding COVID-19

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 if you are not 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.
You can also join me on VietBay TV for an Online Town Hall that will be streaming on multiple platforms. The live discussion can be streamed on Saturday, April 25, Saturday, May 2, and Saturday May 9, from 3 to 4 p.m. at youtube.com/vietbaytvkaxt and facebook.com/vietbaytv. Call in and ask your questions at 408-287-3587 or text my Office at 408-480-7833.

Please join me for my Weekly Radio Town Hall series on Wednesdays 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 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 if you are not 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

Diversity in Construction Contracting Webinar

Join me and the Minority Business Consortium of Silicon Valley for a webinar regarding Construction Contracts with the County of Santa Clara on Thursday, April 29 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. We will discuss how to work with the County and the support available for small and local firms. Register for the Webinar at https://countyofsantaclara-constructioncontracts.eventbrite.com/.

Debt Relief for Student Loans and Garnishment

Governor Gavin Newsom announced that 21 of the 24 private student loan servicers have agreed to provide payment relief to borrowers. The CARES Act suspended monthly payments, interest and involuntary collection activity until September 30, but only for loans owned by the U.S. government. This new announcement expands relief to students with a commercially owned Federal Family Education Loan or privately held student loans. Relief options include providing a minimum of 90 days of not demanding payments, waiving late payment fees, ensuring that no borrower is subject to negative credit reporting and helping eligible borrowers enroll in other assistance programs.
Governor Newsom also signed an executive order that exempts garnishment, or the taking of wages, for any individuals receiving federal, state or local government financial assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes recovery rebates under the CARES Act and is retroactive for garnishments already made.

Nonprofit Connects Volunteer Errand Runners with Those in Need

Helping Hands is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving those most vulnerable to COVID-19: senior citizens, the immunocompromised, and people with pre-existing medical conditions that put them at additional risk. The platform connects at-risk community members with local volunteers for support with critical errands like grocery shopping or pharmacy visits, enabling them to stay home and stay safe. Learn more here.

Clap for Essential Workers at 5 p.m. on Sunday

Health workers, first responders and other essential workers in our community are risking exposure to COVID-19 everyday so the rest of us can stay home and stay healthy. They deserve a very big -- and very public -- round of applause.

We can do this together. On Sunday, April 26, at 5 p.m., open a window or stand in front of your house and clap, cheer, ring a bell, or bang pots and pans together for two minutes to salute our police officers, fire fighters, paramedics, doctors, nurses, therapists and health workers, pharmacists, grocery workers, restaurant workers, postal workers, delivery drivers, and every other essential employee.

Don’t forget to practice social distancing during the round of applause but do take photos or video and post them on social media with the hashtag #ClapBecauseWeCareSCC so our essential workers will know how much you support and appreciate them.

You can reach my office at 408-299-5030, email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org and visit the District 3 website at www.supervisorcortese.org.

Stay safe,

Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District

Click here to manage your communication preferences