Dear Friends,

Later this week, the Bay Area's public health officers, including Santa Clara County Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody, will issue a revised Shelter in Place Order that will extend most of the current restrictions through the end of May.

We need to listen to the experts as we flatten the curve of coronavirus cases and continue to follow the guidelines, including staying at home as much as possible, staying at least six feet apart from people you don’t live with and wearing a mask in stores and other places where you may be close to others.

I will continue to ask for more help for our unhoused residents who are also struggling with this disease, keep exploring how we can get people back to work and make sure that the County is being as transparent as possible about the virus and where we are finding outbreaks of cases.

I will keep you informed about any other details about the new Shelter in Place Order, but most of the current restrictions are likely to stay in place. The new order will include limited easing of specific restrictions for a small number of lower-risk activities, but I don’t have specifics at this time.

Your cooperation in following the guidelines and the sacrifices you have made have helped us to make substantial progress on the spread of the virus and ensure that our hospitals have not been overwhelmed. But at this stage of the pandemic, we need to keep up these efforts, so we don’t lose the progress we have made together.

Thank you again for all you do for each other and your contributions to the community during the biggest health crisis in our lifetimes.

For questions and concerns, please call my office at 408-299-5030, email me at Dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org and visit the District 3 website, supervisorcortese.org.

Restaurants Deliver: Home Meals for Seniors Program

A new program to help provide meals for seniors and help restaurants stay in business is coming to Santa Clara County. Last week, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a program called Restaurants Deliver: Home Meals for Seniors Program.

This program is available for residents who are over age 65 or are at high risk for COVID-19 and who are not receiving assistance from another federal program. Participants who live alone cannot receive more than $74,940 in income, and $101,460 for a household of two eligible participants. They must not be able to prepare meals or receive them in other ways.
The County’s Adult and Aging Services Department, part of the Social Services Agency, will administer the program and select the restaurants, which will be reimbursed at a cost of $66 a day for each senior who is served three meals a day. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will provide 75 percent of the cost, the state will share 19 percent, and the County will take on 6 percent. FEMA will pay it share of the costs through May 10, but there may be extensions.

Older residents who want to know if they qualify to participate should call 2-1-1, a call center operated by United Way of Silicon Valley to answer questions about coronavirus, 24/7 in many different languages.

Those are the nuts and bolts of the program. But the intent is to connect seniors who are isolating at home with restaurant owners and workers who have lost business during this pandemic.

Based on the California Health Interview Survey, there are 5.7 million Californians over age 65, with 1.2 million living alone.

**Coronavirus Update**

As of April 27, 2020, there were 2,105 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 103 confirmed deaths in Santa Clara County, with 172 people in the hospital. Most of the cases, 1,398 are in San Jose. The dashboards are updated daily at the [Public Health website](https://www.sccgov.org/content/public-health).

**In the News**

Did you get a chance to see recent coverage of our work in your local news? Check out the below links for some recent updates:

Watch my most recent Town Hall live discussion on VietBay TV [here](https).

San Jose Spotlight: [Construction unions lobby Santa Clara County leaders to loosen restrictions](https://sanjosespotlight.com/)

Cupertino Today: [Two County Supervisors hosting town halls in coming week](https://cupertinotoday.com/)

Milpitas Post: [Santa Clara County death data shows 20% increase in March, suggesting more coronavirus victims than previously known](https://milpitaspost.com/)

Milpitas Post: [29 people had flu-like symptoms when they died in Santa Clara County. Nine tested positive for coronavirus](https://milpitaspost.com/)

**Upcoming Town Halls Regarding COVID-19**
Tune in to KSJX 1500AM Multicultural Radio on Saturday, May 2, from 7 to 8 p.m. for the third in a series of Radio Townhalls about COVID-19. 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.

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, 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 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.

Diversity in Construction Contracting Webinar on Wednesday.
Join me and the Minority Business Consortium of Silicon Valley for a webinar regarding Construction Contracts with the County of Santa Clara from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, April 29. 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/.

Health Resource Roundup

The Shelter in Place Order can be very isolating for people living with mental health conditions. NAMI Santa Clara County Warmline staff are still working remotely to provide information and resources at 408-453-0400. They also have resources and tips on taking care of your mental health while sheltering in place on their website.

Smoking or vaping increases the risk of more severe COVID-19 infections and damages the body’s ability to fight disease. The California Smokers’ Helpline is offering phone and chat counseling for smokers who are trying to quit and a FREE 2-week supply of nicotine patches. Visit NoButts.org and NoVapes.org for more information.

The Office of LGBTQ Affairs has launched a FAQ page around COVID-19 with a LGBTQ competent and inclusive resources.

Practicing meditation can help manage stress and anxiety. Meditation apps like Headspace are providing free content to help residents feel more relaxed.

The City of San José posted a PSA from Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition Executive Director Shiloh Ballard with safety tips for those who bike for exercise or to get to essential businesses.

Marijuana Convictions to be Expunged

On Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 41 of the Hall of Justice Courthouse, Supervising Criminal Judge Eric S. Geffon will reduce or expunge the records of over 11,500 marijuana convictions for more than 9,000 people in Santa Clara County. Read the full press release here.

This move eliminates the need for people with a Proposition 64 eligible criminal conviction to go through the process of filing a petition, serving an application, waiting for a hearing date, and attending a hearing on the matter. Having a clear record will also assist those seeking employment, an issue that is especially important as businesses eventually begin the process of reopening.

Seedling Taxis Needed
Can your bike double as a pedi-cab for plants? You can deliver seedlings to families! Seedling deliveries will take place Saturday, May 9, with the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. Riders will show up, get their seedlings, the addresses of families, and then drop those seedlings off on their front porch or lawn. Click here for more details and to sign up!

As always, you can call my office at 408-299-5030, email me at Dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org and visit the District 3 website, supervisorcortese.org.

Stay safe,

Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District

Click here to manage your communication preferences