Dear Friends,

A new Shelter in Place Order will extend through May, but it will have fewer restrictions in some of the work areas, including construction.

Our construction workers will be able to go back to work on certain projects if they follow safety protocols. I announced this today at a news conference with Executive Director of the South Bay Labor Council, Ben Field, UA 393 Residential Plumber Cecelia Cervantes and IBEW Business Agent Will Smith.

Under the new order:

- All construction projects can resume, provided they comply with the Construction Project Safety Protocols issued as part of the Order. These protocols replace the COVID-19 Construction Field Safety Guidelines applicable to the Prior Order.
- Commercial as well as residential real estate transactions are allowed to fully resume, but with continued restrictions on in-person viewings and appointments.
- Childcare establishments, summer camps, schools, and other educational and recreational programs can operate to provide care and supervision for children to allow all who are working in essential businesses or outdoor businesses or performing minimum basic operations to access childcare. All of these operations must comply with restrictions specified in the order.
- Outdoor businesses such as nurseries, landscaping, and agriculture that normally operated outdoors prior to the shelter in place orders.
- Use of certain outdoor recreational facilities.

Click here to read the entire new order.

This is especially good news not just to the workers but to all of us who know that the housing crisis has not gone away during our COVID-19 health crisis. We need housing construction and other essential projects to resume.

Thank you to the leaders of the six Bay Area counties and the City of Berkeley who, earlier this month, joined my ad-hoc committee to promote the reopening of construction work that can be done with as much safety as public works projects, which were already exempt from the order. Details for this initiative also came from building industry officials (CBIA), contractors, tech companies and commercial property owners.

The new order that must be adhered to by contractors and workers emphasizes social distancing, sanitation of restrooms and any common areas, health screenings at work sites, signage that reinforces COVID-19 prevention measures, and other best practices.
I’m also happy to announce that local nurseries will be able to open, with social distancing measures in place, so that spring planting can move forward and our gardens can help increase the supply of produce throughout the County, even if it is just for our families and neighbors. It can make a difference in our food supply as we continue to follow Shelter in Place guidelines.

**COVID-19 Update in Santa Clara County**

The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department announced three new deaths from COVID-19, bringing the total number of deaths to 106 in Santa Clara County. The County also reported 20 new cases, bringing our total number of confirmed cases to 2,122. That represents a 7.97 % positivity rate out of 26,640 total tests, with 200 testing results pending.

There are currently 182 COVID-19 patients in hospitals, with 77 of those cases in ICUs. Countywide, there are 1,034 acute hospital beds, 182 ICU beds, and 1,222 surge beds available. There are 772 of 890 total ventilators available across all hospitals.

The dashboards are updated daily at the [Public Health website](https://www.sccgov.org/content/dam/sccgov/auto/mypage/bos/ph彰放念a/phdashboard/phdashboard-2020-01-28-en.pdf).

**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:

- I was able to sit down with San Jose Inside to discuss my efforts to protect our unhoused population from contracting the COVID-19 virus. Read the story [here](https://sanjoseinside.com/2020/04/18/9285059/dave-cortese-houseless-mayor-san-francisco-coronavirus).
- NBC Bay Area also covered my efforts to resume construction work safely in the County.

**Upcoming Town Halls**

*Tune in to KSJX 1500AM Multicultural Radio Saturday, May 2, from 7 to 8 p.m. for a radio call-in.*
town hall on 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. These Town Halls will be in English with a recorded Vietnamese translation available upon request.

You can also join my Weekly Radio Town Hall series on from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, focused on answering your questions about COVID-19 and what the County is doing to help residents. Tune in to KCXU 92.7 FM. Call 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.

And you can join me on VietBay TV for an Online Town Hall that will be streaming on multiple platforms.

The live discussion will 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.

**Biking Safely During the Pandemic**

Biking is a great form of exercise that can easily be done with social distancing. The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition has a web page that is a great resource for information about safe biking during the pandemic [here](#).

They have also partnered with Commute.org to produce a series of five webinars focused on biking. You can watch the first one [here](#). New episodes will be added every Wednesday [here](#).

The Valley Transportation Authority has a great map of all of the County’s bikeways [here](#).

**Safety Tips for Essential Workers**

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1665337611752401263&simpl=msg-f%3A166533761175...
We can’t thank our essential workers enough for reporting to work every day during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep our grocery stores open, treat our loved ones at healthcare facilities, drive us to essential activities, and provide other essential services on the frontlines.

Our essential workers are playing a pivotal role in helping flatten the curve and keeping our community safe. Since essential workers cannot shelter in place during work hours, we want to highlight a few tips that can help lower the risk of exposure to the virus. Please take a look at these tips in English, Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

**COVID-19 Resources for Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Shelter-in-place is helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 but it also means people are facing new challenges as their lives adjust to the changes. Caring for individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorders might be especially difficult. Challenges include changes in schedules, disruptions to services, and learning to cope with uncertainty. Parents Helping Parents and Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area have put together comprehensive lists of events, resources, information, and more to help our community through this crisis.

**Dignity on Wheels**

Dignity on Wheels offers shower and laundry services around the Bay Area. Clients can take a 7-minute timed shower in a private shower room. They can also wash up to two sets of clothing (no shoes, sleeping bags or heavy items). Services are available on a first come, first served basis. View a service schedule on Google Calendar.

**My Childcare Plea to Governor Newsom**

We need to protect our communities by ensuring that healthcare workers, first responders, and disaster service workers have safe, reliable childcare. With schools closed for the remainder of the school year, many parents are facing difficult childcare situations, and this problem is particularly acute for healthcare workers whose work is critical to keeping our communities safe. These essential workers are forced to choose between missing work or leaving a child without proper care. This is why I am asking Governor to implement a childcare program that:

1. Provides financial assistance to healthcare workers who must now find childcare in order to conduct the critical care they provide. Creating and funding a plan ensures healthcare workers can take all the shifts necessary without worrying about how to care for dependents.
2. Allows healthcare workers to designate someone to take their emergency family leave granted to them under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act who can care for their children, so that the healthcare worker can continue working while ensuring their dependents have care.
3. Allows pop-up childcare centers that can quickly be established by local agencies.

As always, you can reach my office at 408-299-5030, email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org or visit the District 3 webpage at supervisorcortese.org.

Stay safe,

Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District