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Bridging the Digital Divide

Supervisor Dave Cortese <SupervisorDaveCortese@davecortese.com>
To: Gnosis Test Email <michaelefranzino@gmail.com>

Wed, May 6, 2020 at 2:35 PM



Dear Friends,

As we continue into the 8th week of Sheltering in Place, schools across Santa Clara County remain closed, and students and teachers have shifted to on-line learning. But not every child in Santa Clara County has a computer or tablet or access to the Internet. The need for connectivity has presented significant challenges for our community members who live in areas with poor or no broadband service.

At the Tuesday, May 12, Board of Supervisors meeting, I am calling for a partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to help provide equipment and data coverage for underserved community members who need access to services online. I am asking for a report on how we can do this to return to the Board on Tuesday, June 2.

Lack of access to the Internet not only is a barrier to distance learning, but also to telehealth services and access to health care providers, delivery services, job opportunities and other online resources. To overcome these digital inclusion gaps, residents need suitable computing devices, cell phones, access to hotspots and Internet coverage.

My request is for a proposal on how the County can partner with the County Office of Education to provide coverage and purchase equipment for underserved community members, starting first with the 15,000 families identified by SCCOE who have the highest need of assistance to get connected. For example, families who are receiving government help through MediCal, CalFresh, CalWORKS, WIC, and other low-income community members in need.

I'm also asking that the report include information on whether the County can leverage funding to provide about 11,000 hotspots/connectivity devices and 14,000 devices, such as laptops or tablets, to these families. Purchase and provision of cellular phones may also be necessary as a means to provide better hotspots.

Since many of these dead zones are in San Jose, the County should consider partnering with the City of San Jose to make broadband connectivity infrastructure permanent around low-income communities to allow for community members to access much needed resources, even beyond the COVID-19 public health emergency.

To listen to or join the Board discussion on Tuesday, click [here](#) for the County Meeting Portal, and follow the instructions.

COVID-19 Update in Santa Clara County

As of today, there are 2,268 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County and 126 deaths. There are currently 123 people hospitalized in the County who are confirmed to have

COVID-19. So far, 35,195 people in Santa Clara County have been tested, with a 6.4 percent positive rate. The dashboards are updated daily at the [Public Health website](#).

In the News

Did you get a chance to see recent coverage of our work in your local news? Visit my [website](#) to learn more and read recent coverage in [Cupertino Today](#) and the [Daily Post](#).

The Foundation for Climate Restoration engaged in a series of discussions during Earth Day Week across a range of audiences on the importance of climate restoration. See the week recap video [here](#). I was humbled to serve on a panel of global climate leaders, including the President and CEO of the World Academy of Art and Science; Gary Jacobs; Sir David King, founder of the Centre for Climate Repair at Cambridge University; and Cardinal Peter Kodwo Turkson, former president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. You can watch the discussion [here](#).

In case you missed my live Q&A discussion with Santa Clara County Deputy County Counsel Tony LoPresti, one of our County personnel in charge of drafting the County's Shelter in Place Orders, [visit this link](#) to listen to a recording of the informative discussion.

Who Should Get Tested?

Anyone experiencing [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) should immediately call their medical provider to discuss their conditions and seek testing. For individuals experiencing symptoms, we also encourage you to review our [recommendations on what to do if you think you are sick](#).

The Public Health Department is also recommending testing for many categories of people even if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19, including:

- All persons who were notified that they were exposed to someone who was confirmed to have COVID-19
- All persons who work in high-risk congregate settings such as skilled nursing facilities, other long-term care facilities, jails, or shelters
All hospital employees, including healthcare workers and essential service employees

If testing capacity allows, Public Health also recommends that additional categories of people without symptoms should be tested, including:

- Other healthcare workers, first responders, and essential service employees (e.g. grocery clerks, utility workers, food supply workers, or other employees with frequent contact with the public)
- All hospitalized persons and persons undergoing elective surgeries/procedures
All residents of congregate living facilities
- All persons 60 years of age or older or any age with chronic medical conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19 illness

Where to Get Tested?

Most healthcare providers are now offering testing to patients who meet testing criteria. Anyone needing testing can start by reaching out to their primary care provider.

The Public Health Department has just issued new guidance to all healthcare providers recommending that many more people now be tested for the virus. Anyone experiencing [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) should immediately call their medical provider right away to discuss their conditions and seek testing.

If you do not have a medical provider or if you don't have health insurance, please contact the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Valley Connection Line at 1-888-334-1000 and ask

to speak to an advice nurse who can connect you to necessary testing and care. (Please do not call the Public Health Department to request a test.)

[For a full list of COVID-19 testing sites in the County, visit this webpage.](#)

Upcoming Town Halls Regarding COVID-19



Please join me for my Radio Town Hall from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, to answer your questions about COVID-19 and what the County is doing to help residents. Tune in to KCXU 92.7 FM and 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.

The town hall 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://kcxucovid19.org/>.

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Vietbay Television has a group of experience professionals who have expertise in television production including journalism, hosting, camera, post-production, staging, lighting, photography, audio, video and animation. Our professional team is full of passion to provide our viewers a high-level and extraordinary TV programs.

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VietBay TELEVISION

COVID - 19 TOWN HALL
with supervisor **Dave Cortese**

Dates: - April 25th, 2020 @ 3PM - 4PM
- May 2nd & 9th, 2020 @ 3PM - 4PM

- TV Live on local Channel 24.5 KAAP
- Nationwide 104 UNOPTV
- **Live stream on social media:** youtube.com/vietbaytv
facebook.com/vietbaytv
- **Call in and ask your questions:** 408.287.3587 or 408.292.2959
- **Text your questions:** 408.480.7833

There has been a lot developing news about COVID - 19. We will inform you of some important updates to help you adjust to this difficult time.
Learn more: tara.sreekrishnan@es.sccgov.org
www.supervisorcortese.org

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 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.

Discussion with Congressman Ro Khanna and the Silicon Valley NAACP

Join me and Congressman Ro Khanna on Tuesday, May 12, from 6 to 7 p.m. for a



PRESENTED BY SAN JOSE / SILICON VALLEY NAACP

COVID-19 and Its Impact on the African American Community

Tuesday, May 12 | 6:00PM-7:00PM

Join the Discussion at this Link: tinyurl.com/SVNAACP

Meeting ID: 811 8244 5488
Password: 917325



SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE:



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Dave Cortese
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Congressman
Ro Khanna
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virtual discussion with the San Jose/Silicon Valley NAACP regarding COVID-19 and its impact on the African American

Community. To access the virtual event, visit www.tinyurl.com/SVNAACP and enter the password 917325. We will be joined by special guests including our frontline healthcare heroes.

PBS Docu-Series on Asian Americans

In every tragedy, there is always a scapegoat and unfortunately, the COVID-19 catastrophe has caused a huge increase in Chinese/Asian hate crimes. Therefore, it is even more important to make visible this historical and comprehensive PBS documentary of who and what is an Asian American. Prior to this series, documentaries were based on an ethnic focus, the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Japanese Incarceration, the Vietnam War. This docuseries reviews the uniqueness of this innovative and inclusive Asian American community of different races and nationalities, different religions and cultures. From 5 to 7 p.m. on May 11, and 5 to 8 p.m. on May 12, PBS will live stream and televise the series through their affiliate stations in all 50 states. For more information about the series, please [visit this link](#). To live stream the series at 5 p.m. on May 11 and 12, [visit this link](#).

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



Click [here](#) to manage your communication preferences

