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## Contact Tracing in Santa Clara County

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

Thu, May 7, 2020 at 2:23 PM



Dear Friends,

Testing and tracing are two words you're going to hear a lot more of in the coming weeks. They are important tools to assess how we're doing in slowing the spread of COVID-19 now and how we can be even more aggressive in slowing it in the future.

The County has ramped up testing for COVID-19 with community-based sites along with those already established, but many testing sites are not being used to capacity. Please visit the [Public Health Testing page](#) to determine if you should be tested and to find a testing site near you.

The next step after testing is contact tracing. The ability to trace everyone who has been in contact with an infected person is going to take a lot of help from the community. At the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Dr. Sara Cody, our Public Health Officer, reported that the Public Health Department is now in the process of rapidly and massively expanding case investigation and contact tracing.

Currently, we have capacity to investigate 25 new cases a day, each of whom have only a few contacts because of the Shelter in Place Order. We believe we will need the capacity to investigate and contact trace 50 to 75 cases a day, with an anticipated average of 40 contacts per case. To reach this goal, we will need to expand the current team to about 1,000 members.

The expanded team will be staffed by County and other public agency staff, contract staff, as well as community volunteers who are available to work on this for at least 6 to 12 months. The County's nonprofit partner [Heluna Health](#) is providing the assistance needed to rapidly scale this effort.

We will also need support from cities and community partners to provide housing, food, income support, and child and elder care for cases and their contacts who need to be isolated or quarantined.

Governor Gavin Newsom has partnered with the University of California, San Francisco and the University of California, Los Angeles to begin training workers for a contact tracing program, with a goal of training 20,000 "disease detectives" in two months. The County will be evaluating whether these state training resources can support our local efforts.

Stay tuned for more information on how to volunteer for contact tracing. In the meantime, you can click [here](#) for information on other ways to volunteer during this health crisis.

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

As of Thursday, 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](#).

### **Covered California for Small Business Premium Grace Period**

Covered California has announced another 30-day grace period for small businesses to make premium payments on their employees' health care plans. This will help keep thousands of Californians insured during the coronavirus pandemic. For more information, businesses can visit the Covered California for Small Business [website](#) or call 844-332-8384 (Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.).

### **GO-Biz Resource Website**

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development has compiled helpful information for California businesses and employees. Among the resources are Program Impact Videos that provide a deeper dive into federal funding opportunities and Weekly Webinars every Wednesday. Learn more [here](#).

### **San Jose Park and Golf Course Amenities Open in Phased Approach**

Following the new County and State orders and guidance, San Jose's three golf courses are open. Course operators must comply with the [County protocols](#) to safely operate the courses. The new County Order also allows some park amenities to reopen with new protocols in place.

Starting this weekend, the following San Jose Park amenities will begin to open: pickleball, bocce ball, tennis courts, disc golf, skateparks and horseshoes. Visitors at those sites will need to follow all County criteria, which includes no sharing of recreational equipment and only using these facilities with members of their households. Other amenities remain closed. Violators may be subject to fines of \$100 or more. For a current list of park and facility closures, please visit [bit.ly/prnscancellations](http://bit.ly/prnscancellations).

### **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 [NBC News Bay Area](#). In case you missed my live Q&A discussion on KCXU San Jose Community Radio last night, [visit this link](#) to listen to a recording of the informative discussion.

### **Online Town Hall with Dave**

Join me this Saturday, May 9, from 3 to 4 p.m. for an Online Town Hall streamed live on [my Facebook page](#):

[www.facebook.com/davecortese](http://www.facebook.com/davecortese).

You can ask questions through Facebook, by calling 408-287-3587, or texting my Office at 408-480-7833. You do not need to have a Facebook account to stream this Town Hall.



**COVID-19 TOWN HALL  
WITH SUPERVISOR  
DAVE CORTESE**

**May 9 at 3pm PST**

**LIVE ON FACEBOOK:  
@DAVECORTESEGOV**

**Discussion with Congressman Ro Khanna and Silicon Valley NAACP**

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](http://tinyurl.com/SVNAACP)

Meeting ID: 811 8244 5488  
Password: 917325



SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE:



Supervisor  
Dave Cortese  
[supervisorcortese.org](http://supervisorcortese.org)



Congressman  
Ro Khanna  
[@RepRoKhanna](https://twitter.com/RepRoKhanna)

Learn More:  
[info@sanjosenaacp.org](mailto:info@sanjosenaacp.org)  
408 991 4610

Join me and Congressman Ro Khanna on Tuesday, May 12, from 6 to 7 p.m. for a 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/SVNAACP) and enter the password 917325. We will be joined by special guests including our frontline healthcare heroes.

**Wildfire Season is Coming**

This week is Wildfire Preparedness Week. CAL FIRE is warning California residents that this year's wildfire season is going to be more difficult than last due to the lack of late-season rain and snow, so it is important to start building a preparedness and evacuation plan.

With many people at home and the increased operation of outdoor businesses, now is a great time to create defensible space and harden homes. Defensible space is a buffer created by removing dead plants, grass, and weeds. Home hardening means using construction materials that can help a home withstand flying embers finding weak spots in

the construction, which can result in a house catching fire. The Santa Clara County Fire Department has tips and information [here](#).

During air quality incidents, cleaner air shelters such as school gymnasiums, community centers, and civic auditoriums are used by many communities to provide spaces where people can shelter overnight or for extended periods of time. However, the use of cleaner air shelters can result in congregating of groups of people, including older adults and those with heart or lung conditions, and potentially provide a route for the spread of COVID-19.

The CDC has provided guidance to help plan for the use of cleaner air shelters as wildfire season approaches. The Public Health Department will also continue to provide updated [guidance](#) as local conditions evolve.

### **Restaurants Deliver: Home Meals for Seniors Program**

As we reported previously, a new program called Restaurants Deliver: Home Meals for Seniors Program has launched to help provide meals for seniors and help restaurants stay in business is coming to Santa Clara County.

If you are a restaurant interested in participating in this program, please fill out this form on the [Great Plates](#) website to get started.

This program is available for residents who are over age 65 and 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.

### **Neighborhood Resources in Milpitas**

Milpitas Family Help Net is collecting gift cards, gas cards, and funds to help out families who are trying to stay housed. For more information, call 408-586-0509.

[The Milpitas Food Pantry](#) needs funds to help cover costs of purchasing food (they can't accept physical donations at this time), and need help picking up donations with a truck.

[Pay it Forward](#) started by Robert Jung of the Milpitas Community Education Foundation is collecting funds to purchase meals for homeless and low income families during this time of crisis.

[The Family Giving Tree](#) is using donated funds to purchase school supplies wholesale for distribution to Milpitas students in need.

[Corona-Covey](#) is a nonprofit, student-led initiative making essential items available for the disabled and elderly during this difficult time.

### **State Provides Flexibility for CalWORKs Enrollment**

Last week, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an [executive order](#) that provides counties with additional flexibility for enrolling individuals into CalWORKs. Specifically, the order allows counties to accept certain verbal affirmations if an individual is not able to provide a physical signature, allows pregnant applicants to provide a sworn statement or verbal attestation to verify pregnancy, and waives interview requirements if certain conditions are met.

In addition, the order allows a CalWORKs recipient whose income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify for lump-sum financial assistance instead of CalWORKs assistance and disallows Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation from being considered as income for determining CalWORKs grant amounts.

CalWORKs is a program that helps eligible families become self-supporting through temporary cash aid and assistance in finding and keeping a job. When receiving CalWORKs cash aid, the family also receives Medi-Cal and may be eligible for CalFresh benefits. Residents can learn more [here](#) or call the 24-hour automated information line at 1-877-962-3633.

As always, you can reach my office at 408-299-5030, email me at [dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org) or visit the District 3 webpage at [supervisorcortese.org](http://supervisorcortese.org).

Stay safe,



Dave Cortese  
County Supervisor, Third District



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