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The Cost of The Virus

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Dear Friends,

The recommended 2020-2021 Budget, which was released this week by the County Department of Budget and Finance, reflects the impact that the Coronavirus pandemic has had on our economy, and the uncertainty the County faces in revenues to meet the needs of its 2 million residents.

On June 23, the Board will be asked to adopt a recommended \$8.3 billion “continuation” budget to keep the County operating after the fiscal year ends on June 30. In August, there will be workshops, hearings and much public discussion about the final budget that will take us through the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The hearings are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, Wednesday, August 19, and Friday, August 21, most likely by teleconference.

The County is facing a \$300 million budget deficit -- three times what was anticipated -- because of unexpected costs and loss of revenue caused by Shelter in Place orders to protect the lives of our residents and the health of our community. But temporarily closing businesses, schools and limiting activities turned an economic downturn into a recession.

Not taking those actions, however, would have meant a widespread virus outbreak that could have taken many more lives than the current 151. Any life taken by this pandemic is a tragedy. Thankfully, the County Public Health Department actions and the commitment of residents to follow Shelter in Place rules and social distancing protocols, have allowed us to flatten the curve and dramatically slow the spread of COVID-19. As you know, the County has moved into a reopening phase with outdoor restaurants, indoor retail, construction and summer activities for children, and our Public Health Department is carefully monitoring the impact.

Add to the loss of revenue the State's plan to take away \$145 million in ERAF Excess funds from Santa Clara County to help balance its \$54 billion budget deficit. This week, I joined a coalition of Supervisor Cindy Chavez and more than 280 community leaders in opposing this plan, which would be devastating to our safety net services.

The recommended [2020-21 Budget](#) is available online, and I recommend starting with County Executive Jeff Smith's budget message at the beginning of the document. He presents in more detail what the County is facing and how we're approaching balancing the budget.

New this year, the Office of Budget and Analysis and the Office of Data Oversight Management and Evaluation, have created a new tool to review revenue, net expenditures and positions by budget unit, fund and Board committee. Click [here](#) for this new feature.

For questions, you can also call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org.

Coronavirus Dashboards Update

As of Tuesday, there were 3,254 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County and 151 deaths. There are currently 54 people hospitalized in the County who are confirmed to have COVID-19. So far, 107,142 people in Santa Clara County have been tested, with a 3 percent positive rate. The [dashboards](#) are updated daily.

Free Mobile Testing Sites Open This Week

The County Health System is sending COVID-19 teams this week into areas across the County to provide free diagnostic tests. No appointments are necessary.

- County of Santa Clara Service Center Auditorium, [1555 Berger Dr., Building 2, San Jose](#), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., today through Friday.
- Overfelt High School, [1835 Cunningham Ave, San Jose](#), 1 to 7 p.m., today through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.
- Palo Alto City Hall, [250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto](#), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today through Friday.
- Cupertino Creekside Park, [10455 Miller Avenue, Cupertino](#), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., today and Thursday.
- Consulate General of Mexico in San Jose, [302 Enzo Drive, #200, San Jose](#), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.
- Roots Clinic at Antioch Baptist Church, [268 East Julian Street, San Jose](#), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today.

Promoting Mobile Phone Hygiene

Residents have repeatedly received messaging about the importance of good handwashing, but they may not think about their mobile phones. We handle our phones all day long, and leave them on tables, counters, and other surfaces. The CDC warns that phones and personal electronic devices are "high touch" surfaces that can serve as potential carriers for germs and viruses, including the novel coronavirus.

Cleaning devices regularly is a good way to help keep germs off the users' hands. Most alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should kill the virus. The [CDC website](#) also provides further tips and advice for personal items and around the home.

Upcoming Webinars on COVID-19 Relief

Maximizing FEMA cost recovery for Non-profits and Government Webinar: From 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 19, the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits and CADRE are offering a webinar for nonprofit organizations and government agencies on how to document disaster work in order to maximize cost recovery dollars. To learn more and to register [click here](#).

COVID-19 Rapid Response Session with Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs: At 11 a.m. on Friday, June 19, the California Entrepreneurship Task Force with the support of the Office of the Small Business Advocate will host a rapid response session titled, "Capital and Connections Part I: Loans and Resources." [Click here](#) to register for the webinar. Locally, the Silicon Valley Small Business Development Center also has free webinars for businesses trying to cope with COVID-19 restrictions. Visit svsbdc.org.

Town Hall on Saturdays with Dave

Join me every Saturday for an Online Town Hall streamed live on my Facebook page:



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

**EVERY SATURDAY
IN JUNE FROM 3-4PM PST**

**LIVE ON FACEBOOK:
@DAVECORTESGOV**

www.facebook.com/davecortese.gov.

The live discussions can be streamed on Saturday, June 20 and June 27, from 3 to 4 p.m. Ask questions through Facebook, call in and ask your questions at 408-287-3587, or text my Office at 408-480-7833.

Tomorrow, I will be joined by Santa Clara Valley Medical Center CEO Paul Lorenz who will be available to answer your questions about our County's hospital system.

You do not need to have a Facebook account to stream this Town Hall.

We hope to hear from you!

Please Fill Out the 2020 Census Form

Even though we are sheltering in place, the Census 2020 count is moving forward. Data collected in the census is used for the appropriation of over \$675 billion in annual federal funding and apportionment for the House of Representatives.. Census forms are available online at my2020census.gov or you can call toll-free 844-330-2020. The Santa Clara County Census Office has created a video that you can share on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

D3 Website Hosts COVID-19 Resources and Updates

My [website](#) hosts a dedicated section, updated regularly, that is focused on COVID-19. Here, you can view all of our previous newsletters, recordings of our town halls, and learn about resources and recommendations around the current public health emergency. We hope you, your family and friends find this information useful during this time.

D3 COVID-19 Informational Flyer

My staff and I have been working hard to supply the public with as many resources and as much knowledge as possible. These resources are vital to many, but reaching everyone who may need them is difficult. Please partner with me in getting the word out by [sharing our COVID-19 Informational Flyer](#) with your neighbors, family and friends. Together, we can ensure that every family has access to the help they need to stay healthy and safe during this pandemic.

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

