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Bridging the Digital Divide

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Dear Friends,

Because school campuses across the County had to shut down due to COVID-19, school districts shifted to online services to try to keep students learning. The shift created a heightened awareness of the digital divide – lack of devices and Internet access – within homes in many of our disadvantaged neighborhoods.

A recent assessment by the Santa Clara County Office of Education estimates that nearly 15,000 students in the County's 31 school districts need laptops or tablets and that 9,361 families are without access to the Internet.

On Tuesday, June 23, the Board will [review a report](#) on how the County can partner with the County Office of Education to provide devices and Internet hot spots to not only provide distance learning to more students but also to connect their families to medical services, information about COVID-19, employment aid and other vital connections.

I called for this report in response to a critical need for information on fighting coronavirus to get out to communities where the impact is the greatest. But bridging the digital divide in Santa Clara County is long overdue.

On Saturday, I joined more than 130 community members, including local educators, superintendents, school board members, parents and students to support my proposal. Once we can equip households with these tools, their outcomes for success are further assured. You can join us by speaking in support of closing the digital divide during Item 42 of the Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday or submit written comments to Boardoperations@cob.sccgov.org. Click [here](#) to join Tuesday's meeting and learn how to participate.

Also, at the Tuesday meeting, I have asked for the County to examine how we can partner with the Department of Aging to [expand Internet access](#) to our senior residents, age 65 and older, and make sure they have devices to help them connect to telehealth appointments, delivery services and communication. This age group is also vulnerable to becoming infected with COVID-19 and needs reliable information to take extra precautions to protect themselves.

Coronavirus Dashboards Update

As of Sunday, there were 3,547 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County and 152 deaths. There are currently 60 people hospitalized in the County who are confirmed to have COVID-19. So far, 122,343 people in Santa Clara County have been tested, with a 2.9 percent positive rate. The [dashboards](#) are updated daily.

Resolution: Racism is a Public Health Crisis



At the Tuesday, June 23, Board of Supervisors meeting, I will propose a resolution that will declare Racism a Public Health Crisis.

This resolution, and another resolution proposed by Supervisor Cindy Chavez, reaffirm the County's commitment to fight racism and address the inequities it has caused to people of color. Supervisor Chavez's resolution affirms that Black Lives Matter, condemns racial violence and commits the County to work with black communities towards elimination of systemic and institutional racism.

Visit my website at supervisorcortese.org to read the resolution and visit this link to support the resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis: www.tinyurl.com/d3supportform.

Free Mobile Testing Sites Open



Free COVID-19 diagnostic tests are available at these locations starting on Tuesday, June 23. No appointments are necessary. Click [here](#) for all the testing sites in Santa Clara County.

- SAP Center, [525 West Santa Clara Street, San Jose](#), 1 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.
- Andrew Hill High School, [3200 Senter Road, San Jose](#), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday.
- Santa Clara Northside Branch Library, [695 Moreland Way, Santa Clara](#), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday.

- Morgan Hill City Council Chambers, [17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill](#), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday.
- IBEW 332, [2125 Canoas Garden Ave Suite 120, San Jose](#), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday.
- Roots Clinic at Antioch Baptist Church, [268 East Julian Street, San Jose](#), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

Town Hall on Saturday with Dave

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

www.facebook.com/davecortese.gov.

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



You do not need to have a Facebook account to stream this Town Hall. We hope to hear from you!

LIVE ON FACEBOOK:
[@DAVECORTESEGOV](#)

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave".

Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District



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