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## New Guide for Reopening Schools

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Dear Friends,

School districts across Santa Clara County now have a guide to help administrators and faculty plan to reopen school campuses in the fall thanks to a partnership between the County Office of Education and the County Public Health Department.

[COVID-19 Prepared: Reopening of Santa Clara County K-12 Schools](#) recognizes the importance of children returning to campuses but with an emphasis on the health and protection of students and teachers as a top priority. The guidelines also remind school districts that distance learning will need to be provided to a percentage of students.

The guideline provides information on safety requirements and recommendations for safe practices for in-class instruction, school arrival and departure, bus transportation, use of face coverings, handwashing, school cleaning, food service, extracurricular activities, and other topics. For use by school administrators, the document explains specific actions schools should take to prevent COVID-19 transmission and to respond to possible cases in the school setting.

There is no guarantee that schools will reopen in the fall. That depends on COVID-19 cases and other data that County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody monitors every day. But each district can plan now for what a school day might look like.

In creating the guidelines, SCCOE reached out to parents through a survey and forums to gather input and hear about their concerns and needs. Among the respondents of the [survey](#), 59 percent said they wanted to return to full-time, in-person and at school, and a slightly higher percentage, 62% preferred a hybrid part-time at home, part-time at school option, and 37% wanted full-time distance learning.

Students who did not have access to the Internet or have laptops or tablets were, for the most part, left out of distance learning. The digital divide is still real for an estimated 15,000 students in schools across the County and 9,361 families. My initiative recently approved by the Board of Supervisors, also in partnership with SCCOE, will help bridge this digital divide with an investment of \$7 million. Allowing these children to return to schools safely is vital to their education.

### [County Coronavirus Dashboards Update](#)

As of Tuesday, there were 4,370 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County and 156 deaths. There are currently 85 people hospitalized in the County who are confirmed to have COVID-19. So far, 190,178 people in Santa Clara County have been tested, with a 2.6% positive rate. The [dashboards](#) are updated daily.

Statewide, as of Thursday, there were 222,917 cases, and 5,980 deaths; 4.1 million have been tested, with an average 5.6% positive rate over the past 14 days. For more

statewide data, click [here](#).

In the U.S. there are 2.6 million cases, with 128,103 deaths.

Globally, 10.4 million cases and 511,851 deaths.

### **Join My Webinar on Wildfire Protection**



Learn about how to protect your home and your family from wildfire at a webinar I am hosting with State Assemblymember Evan Low and the Santa Clara County Fire Department.

We will also take questions on illegal fireworks, and how to report the use of them to law enforcement. There have already been wildfires caused by exploding fireworks in the Bay Area.

The webinar will be from 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, and you can register at this link: [tinyurl.com/sccwildfire](https://tinyurl.com/sccwildfire).

### **New Free Mobile Testing Sites Open This Week**



Free COVID-19 diagnostic tests are available at these locations starting from Tuesday, June 30, through Thursday, July 2. No appointments are necessary. Click [here](#) for a list of all the testing sites in Santa Clara County.

- Vietnamese American Community Center, [2072 Lucretia Ave, San Jose](#), 1 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday.
- Silver Creek High School, [3434 Silver Creek Road, San Jose](#), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday.
- Murphy Park, [194 N. Sunnyvale Ave., Sunnyvale](#), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday.

### **Town Hall on Public Safety**

Community Conversations: A Town Hall on Public Safety will be presented by Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, who represents District 4. Join the conversation and share your experiences with public safety and justice from 10 to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, by registering at this link: <https://bit.ly/2zIUHRq>

Supervisor Ellenberg chairs the Board's Public Safety and Justice Committee.

### **Girls Advisory Team Looking for Members**

Applications are now available for the 2020-2021 Girls Advisory Team through



the Office of Women's Policy. OWP works with high school students to expand their civic leadership and leverage their time, talent and ideas to help impact local public policy for the advancement of women and girls.

Members of the Girls Advisory Team receive leadership development, connect in networking opportunities, and help to plan the annual Strong Girls, Strong Women Conference.

The online application is due on July 7. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply. For questions, contact Ketzal Gomez at [ketzal.gomez@ceo.sccgov.org](mailto:ketzal.gomez@ceo.sccgov.org) or by calling 669-666-4635. I'm a new Text block ready for your content.

### **Alum Rock Counseling Center Offers Free Online Workshops**

The Alum Rock Counseling Center is offering virtual summer workshops for youth ages 12-17. Information for each workshop and registration links can be viewed [here](#).

The workshops include Self-Care, Communications Skills and Healthy Relationships, Rising Stars! Let's Discover your Natural High, Life Skills, Art Expression and more.

### **Town Halls on Saturday in July**



The Saturday Town Halls on COVID-19 will take a break on Saturday, July 4, and then resume on July 11.

If you missed the June 27 Town Hall with our special guest, James Williams, County Counsel, you can watch it on my Facebook page: [davecortese.gov](#).

Thank you to all of you who called in, texted or posted questions during the hourlong Town Hall. If your questions weren't answered, please call my office at 408-299-5030.

### **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](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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