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Unhoused Task Force

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Dear Friends,

Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors approved my proposal to create a homeless task force to focus on transitional housing and immediate shelter, which is critically needed in Santa Clara County while Housing Bond projects are in the works.

The need is even greater now with COVID-19 threatening homeless camps and shelters where our most vulnerable population lives.

Applications are being accepted until July 31 for the new short-term Unhoused Task Force, which will complete its recommendations this year. It will meet through teleconference.

The Board President will make the appointments. You can apply for an appointment [here](#).

County Coronavirus Dashboards Update

As of Friday, there were 7,131 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County and 177 deaths. There are currently 147 people hospitalized in the County who are confirmed to have COVID-19. So far, 281,997 people in Santa Clara County have been tested, with an average 4% positive rate over seven days. The [dashboards](#) are updated daily.

Statewide, there were 365,178 cases, and 7,345 deaths; 5.9 million have been tested, with an average 7.2% positive rate over the past 14 days. For more statewide data, click [here](#).

In the U.S., there are 3.6 million cases, with 141,807 deaths.

Globally, there are 13.9 million cases and 593,007 deaths.

Pop-up Testing Locations Open Next Week

The pop-up testing program operated by Santa Clara Valley Medical Center continues to provide free diagnostic COVID-19 testing around the County. Nasal swab testing is free for everyone—no health insurance or doctor's note is required. No appointment is needed; anyone can simply stop by to get tested. Residents can find a testing location across the County at sccfreetest.org or by calling 2-1-1.

Here are new sites open July 21 through July 25:

- **South County Annex (formerly Del Buono Elementary):** [9300 Wren Avenue, Gilroy](#), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., July 21 through July 24.
- **San Jose High School, [275 North 24th Street, San Jose](#):** 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. July 21 through July 24, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 25.

- **County of Santa Clara Service Center, Auditorium: 1555 Berger Dr.**, San Jose, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 21 through July 23.

Join My Saturday Town Hall on Facebook



Please join my Facebook Town Hall on Saturday, July 18, from 3 to 4 p.m., where you can ask questions about COVID-19.

You do not need to have a Facebook account to stream this Town Hall, simply click on this link facebook.com/davecortese to watch the Town Hall or ask questions. You can also call-in to ask questions at 408-287-3587 or text at 408-480-7833.

We hope to hear from you on Saturday! If your question doesn't get answered during the Town Hall, please call my office at 408-299-5030 and a staff member can help you.

School Toolkits Available for at-Home Use

To help parents and caregivers support students with distance learning, the Statistics in Schools program has developed four toolkits that provide tips, best practices, and instruction on how to use and adapt our activities and resources for at-home use.

Each toolkit describes two types of materials — Quick and Easy Resources and Activities — so parents and caregivers can easily choose those appropriate for their preschool, elementary, middle and high school children. The toolkits contain a teaching guide, student worksheet, a list of materials and an estimate of how long each lesson takes. Click [here](#) to access the toolkits provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Discounts Available for Clean Energy Customers

There are multiple state-funded financial assistance programs to help Clean Energy customers pay their electricity bills. CARE is an income-based program that offers discounts up to 35 percent on electricity and up to 20 percent on gas every month. FERA offers an 18 percent discount on electric rates to households of three or more who meet income guidelines.

Customers who lost a job due to COVID-19 may qualify for these discount programs even if they are receiving unemployment benefits. Income guidelines are based on current income. You can also text "CARE" or "FERA" to 20283 to determine if you are eligible for these two programs.

The Medical Baseline Allowance program assists customers who have medical conditions that require special electricity needs, like an electric wheelchair or CPAP machine. Customers receive a higher electricity allowance at the lowest rate on their monthly energy bills and extra notifications in advance of PG&E's power shutoffs. Visit the San Jose Clean Energy Discount Programs [webpage](#) to learn more or visit svcleanenergy.org for information on programs for residents living in the County and in other cities..

Webinar for Businesses in Navigating SBA Loan Process

Are you a small business owner, nonprofit, or sole proprietor struggling to access working capital? Join the City of San Jose and the Small Business Administration for an online workshop at 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 23. This workshop will provide tips on navigating through the application process for a Small Business Administration Microloan, 7(a) & 504. Click [here](#) to register. Webinars and advice are also available at the Silicon Valley Small Business Development Center at svsbdc.org.

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



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