Dear Friends,

Sheltering in Place made us all aware of the Digital Divide in Santa Clara County for families, students, workers and older adults.

There are nearly 20,000 adults age 65 and older in Santa Clara County who do not have a computer in their household. Among those who do have a computer, more than 12,000 households do not have broadband internet connection.

On Tuesday, August 11, the Board of Supervisors will hear a presentation on how lack of internet connection and devices in some areas is especially detrimental to older adults who live alone and, because of COVID-19, can no longer visit libraries or community centers to be connected to the world through technology.

I asked administration to look into how this lack of connectivity is affecting seniors and to recommend ways the County can partner with nonprofits and agencies to bridge this gap. Sheltering in place is critical for older adults who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 and, yet, this demographic disproportionately lacks access to broadband connections and internet-enabled devices.

In Santa Clara County, 30 percent of older adults live alone. Without meaningful access to the outside world, they are at an increased risk of the harmful effects of isolation and lack access to telehealth appointments, delivery services, emergency information and social connections.

Many of the organizations and facilities that supported older adults and provided them with social connections and services have shifted to providing services only online. While some older adults have been able to take advantage of these online resources, many without internet connectivity have been left out.

We need a countywide initiative to pull together resources and engage partners.

The Santa Clara County’s Age Friendly Action Plan (FY 21-FY 23) addresses the Digital Divide and lack of collaborative efforts with the following goals:

1. Ensure older adults are incorporated in the County’s digital inclusion policies.
2. Connect older adults to classes, affordable devices, and internet services.

Suggested recommendations in the report to be heard August 11th include:

- Incorporating low-income older adults into all County digital inclusion policies, assessments, and evaluations.
- Increasing collaboration and establishing countywide coordination by creating a Digital Inclusion Workgroup through the Age-friendly Cities Collaborative and
Seniors’ Agenda.
- Assessing feasibility and piloting a Digital Inclusion Project focusing on low-income participants in the Senior Nutrition Program.
- Creating public-private partnerships with the assistance of the Board of Supervisors.
- Supporting the Seniors’ Agenda Network Summit focusing on Technology and Digital Inclusion on August 26, 2020.

To watch or participate in Tuesday’s meeting, click here. The full report is available at this link.

**County Coronavirus Dashboards Update**

Due to a glitch in the State reporting system, data on the County Coronavirus Dashboards has been incomplete. Until the reporting system is fixed at the State level, this newsletter will include only data that was compiled here in the County: the number of those hospitalized, hospital capacity and cost tracking.

As of Thursday, there were 169 COVID-19 patients in hospitals in Santa Clara County and 48 are in ICU beds; 787 total beds are available, with 145 ICU beds available; 179 ventilators are in use of 757 available.

The Cost Tracking Dashboard shows that $174.6 million has been spent on COVID-19-related costs.

In the U.S., there are 4.9 million cases, with 161,961 deaths.

Globally, there are 19.1 million cases and 716,083 deaths.

**Updates from D3**

**Hygiene Kits for Unhoused Residents**

It was an honor and a privilege to visit the homeless encampment near Taylor Street and join the Order of Malta as members distributed some of the hundreds of hygiene kits they have been donating to the community. I’m proud of our community for banding together to fight back against this virus!

**County Climate Coalition’s First Webinar**

Thank you to our County Office of Sustainability, led by Jasneet Sharma, for hosting the County Climate Coalition’s first webinar yesterday.
In 2018, along with Al Gore and the Climate Reality Project, I launched the County Climate Coalition, a collection of Counties from across the United States who, like Santa Clara County, believe that local governments can and must step in to protect the environment and preserve our planet for generations to come. During the webinar, counties across the nation shared their approaches to reducing greenhouse gases, including through clean and active transportation systems, fossil-fuel free energy systems, decarbonized buildings, and zero waste solutions.

**Online Santa Clara County Fair Under Way**

It's Fair time at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, and this year it will be virtual! Check out the Fair webpage at [thefair.org](http://thefair.org) and live stream shows, the auction and a virtual concert tonight, Friday, August 7. The Virtual Livestock Auction happens on Saturday August 8, with all the details to participate as a buyer, donor or sponsor on their webpage.

**Join the Women’s Equality 2020 Leadership Council Meeting**

The Finance and Government Operations Committee and the Children, Seniors, and Families Committee, of which I chair and co-chair respectively, will be jointly hosting the Women’s Equality 2020 Leadership Council on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. through virtual teleconference.

The Women’s Equality Leadership Council assists in the County's efforts to commemorate and honor the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage, ensure a complete census count and broad electoral participation in 2020, and advance women’s equality.

Meeting and materials are available online through this [link](http://thefair.org). Members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting and online streaming will continue as normal via the County Agenda Portal, YouTube Channel, and Live Audio Stream. To address the Board in public comment, please review the Public Comment Instructions on the meeting agenda page, then access the teleconference at: [https://sccgov.org.zoom.us/j/94054778689](https://sccgov.org.zoom.us/j/94054778689).

**In the News**

Did you get a chance to see recent coverage of our work in your local news and media outlets? Visit my [website](http://website) to learn more and read recent coverage.
San Jose Spotlight - Santa Clara County approves Caltrain sales tax measure
Route Fifty - One County Offers Universal Basic Income to Former Foster Youth
SF Gate - Federal Relief, Mediation Needed To Avoid Large Scale Evictions
NBC News - Santa Clara County Providing $7.1 Million to Bridge Digital Divide Amid Distance Learning
SF Gate - Annual Silicon Valley Bike Summit Happening Thursday, Friday

No Town Hall on Saturday, August 8

The Saturday Town Hall will take a break this Saturday, August 8, and return on Saturday, August 15.

If you missed last Saturday’s Town Hall with Guest Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, County COVID-19 Testing Officer, you can watch it [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674407195667381890&simpl=msg-f%3A16744071956).

If you didn’t participate in Saturday's Town Hall, you can still get your COVID-19 questions answered. Just call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org and we can assist you.

D3 Website Hosts COVID-19 Resources and Updates

My [website](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674407195667381890&simpl=msg-f%3A16744071956) 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](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674407195667381890&simpl=msg-f%3A16744071956) 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](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674407195667381890&simpl=msg-f%3A16744071956) to manage your communication preferences