Dear Friends,

With our attention focused on COVID-19 and wildfires, let's not forget that the deadline to participate in the 2020 Census is September 30, just over two weeks away.

In Santa Clara County, one in five households have yet to complete the Census questionnaire, which only takes about 10 minutes to complete on paper, online or by phone. Visit my2020census.gov/ or call the toll-free number, 844-330-2020. The census questionnaire is available in multiple languages, including Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Door-to-door canvassing is happening in neighborhoods and you also may receive a phone call to remind you about the census. Don’t hesitate to ask friends if they have participated and let them know how easy and important it is.

The 2020 Census is much more than a compilation of numbers to see how much the County has grown and where. The data collected from the census is used to allocate more than $800 billion nationwide in annual federal funding for schools, roads, housing, healthcare facilities and other public services.

We need everyone who lives here to be counted, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Click here for more information or you can call my office at 408-299-5030.

Town Hall with Mike Hennessy, a COVID-19 Survivor
My guest at my Town Hall this Saturday, September 19th will be Mike Hennessy, director of Hot San Jose Nights and the Car Guy Channel, who will talk about his experience as a COVID-19 survivor.

The Town Hall will be livestreamed from 3 to 4 p.m. You don’t need a Facebook account to stream this Town Hall; simply open an Internet browser and click on this link facebook.com/davecortesegov.

If you aren’t able to participate in Saturday’s Town Hall, call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org to get your questions answered. Please join us!

COVID-19 Update

This week, the County was able to allow some new indoor activities, including nail salon services, fitness centers and museums, with limited capacity and safety precautions in place. Under the state’s four-tier, color-coded system, the County moved from purple, the most restrictive tier, to red, the next tier.

If the County stays in the red category for two weeks, schools will be allowed to resume modified in-person classes under the guidelines established by the County Office of Education and the County Public Health Department. In the meantime, schools may still apply for waivers for in-person learning.

All County directives in the Risk Reduction Order issued on July 2 must be followed. When the State and County issue mandatory directives that differ, the most restrictive rules take precedence. For now, restaurants, movie theaters, places of worship and large gatherings are still not able to operate indoors, but the red designation will allow the County to consider opening up indoor gatherings depending on future local indicators and risk.

Click here for a chart showing what activities are allowed now in this County.

Business owners and managers who have questions can call this hotline for help: 408-961-5500, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dashboards Update

According to County Public Health Dashboards, as of Sunday, there were 19,549 cases reported in Santa Clara County, an increase of 659 since last Monday and 283 deaths, an increase of 20. These are cumulative numbers of only those who have actually been
tested and don’t reflect the number of people who have recovered; 660,815 people have been tested, with a seven-day average positivity rate of 3.1%.

The cumulative total of cases in California is 754,923, and 14,329 people have died; 12.6 million have been tested, with an average 14-day positivity rate of 3.8%.

In the U.S., there were 6.6 million cases, with 197,209 deaths.

Globally, there are 29 million cases and 925,284 deaths.

**Temporary Work Providing Food Assistance**

The San José Conservation Corps is currently hiring up to 100 temporary corps members to respond to the urgent need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is full-time work through at least September 18 for young people ages 18-27. Starting pay is $15.25 an hour. Corps members will prepare food for distribution at one of three commercial food bank warehouses in San Jose. Click [here](#) to apply. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for videos about the work of San Jose Conservation Corps.

**Wildfires Update**

The SCU Fire, which has burned 396,624 acres in four counties, including Santa Clara County, is expected to be 100% contained on Thursday, September 17. Today, it is 98% contained, with 136 structures destroyed, 26 damaged and six injuries among fire personnel.

The CZU Fire has burned 86,509 acres in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties and is 87% contained; 1,490 structures have been destroyed and there has been one death.

Last week, I sent an [urgent request](#) to Governor Gavin Newsom asking that Santa Clara County be included in the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration because of the damage caused by the SCU Fire in the County. Initial damage estimates of the impacted areas of the SCU Fire that should be eligible for federal aid is $26 million, including the loss of cattle and the loss of vegetation on grazing lands, according to a report from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. This estimate does not include the loss of roads, cabins, barns and other buildings. The SCU Fire is the second largest fire in the state’s history and is not yet eligible for FEMA aid. State Senator Jim Beall and State Assembly Member Ash Kalra are supporting this request.

**Virtual Recovery Workshop for Ranchers**

A virtual recovery workshop for Ranchers impacted by the SCU Fire will be hosted at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15. This workshop provides a one-stop shop for resources and information on how to rebuild and recover. Topics include federal financial assistance programs, debris and hazardous material cleanup, septic and water/well systems, rebuilding and more. Representatives from involved agencies will be present to answer questions. Some resources that will be discussed are posted on my website [here](#).

The workshop can be accessed at this link: [https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/94853897773?pwd=bkdLQmpSbEhENTFYV01lTng5UXkvZz](https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/94853897773?pwd=bkdLQmpSbEhENTFYV01lTng5UXkvZz).

**Unhealthy Air Quality and Spare the Air Alert**

Due to smoke from burning fires, air quality remains an ongoing concern and Bay Area communities are experiencing unhealthy air quality measurements. A Spare the Air alert issued by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has remained in effect for 28 consecutive days. Residents are encouraged to monitor the air quality in their area at [airnow.gov](https://airnow.gov). When air quality is poor, residents should avoid strenuous outdoor activities and being outdoors for an extended amount of time. For COVID-19 testing, the County offers several drive-through testing locations that allow people to remain in their vehicles to minimize exposure to poor air quality.

**Testing Locations Open This Week**

[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1677852198205220970&simplt=msg-f%3A16778521982](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1677852198205220970&simplt=msg-f%3A16778521982)
Drive-Through, Walk Up or Bike Up Testing

**County Fairgrounds** - Lot A: Located at 344 Tully Road, San Jose in the parking lot across from Gate B and across from the Blue Arch, this testing site is open Tuesday, September 15, through Friday, September 18 from noon to 6:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The drive-through testing site requires an appointment, which can be scheduled by visiting [www.sccfreetest.org](http://www.sccfreetest.org).

County Fairgrounds - Lot A: Located at 344 Tully Road, San Jose in the parking lot across from Gate B and across from the Blue Arch, this testing site is open noon to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 15, through Friday, September 18 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center continues to offer drop-in and appointment-based testing at other locations.

Free flu vaccines will be available at the Fairgrounds every Saturday starting September 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Click [here](http://www.sccfreetest.org) for more information about this location and other locations.

**Drop-in Testing Locations:**

- **Overfelt High School, Gymnasium**: 1835 Cunningham Ave., San Jose, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, September 15, through Friday, September 18.
- **South County Annex**: 9300 Wren Avenue, Gilroy, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., from Tuesday, September 15, through Friday, September 18.

**Appointment-Based Testing Locations:**

Visit [sccfreetest.org](http://sccfreetest.org) or call 2-1-1 to make an appointment.

- **Sunnyvale**: Murphy Park, 260 N. Sunnyvale Ave., Monday, September 14.
- **Mountain View**: Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street, Tuesday, September 15.
- **Cupertino**: Cupertino Senior Center, 21251 Stevens Creek Blvd., Wednesday, September 16.
- **Campbell**: Orchard City Banquet Hall, 1 W. Campbell Ave., Thursday, September 17.

For those with insurance, you can also call your doctor to schedule a testing appointment. The number to call for each Hospital and Clinic in our County can be found [here](http://www.sccfreetest.org).

**Verily Testing Locations**

Project Baseline, a COVID-19 testing program operated by the company Verily, is providing tests at Independence High School, 617 North Jackson Avenue, San Jose, and Mount Pleasant High School, 1750 South White Road, San Jose. These are drive-through sites but are also open to pedestrians. The open hours are 1 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. To book an appointment, visit [here](http://www.sccfreetest.org) for more information in English or [here](http://www.sccfreetest.org) for more information in Spanish.

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](http://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&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1677852198205220970&simpl=msg-f%3A1677852198205220970) to manage your communication preferences.