Outreach in Hard-Hit Communities

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Dear Friends,

The County’s Community Health and Business Engagement Team has partnered with community groups to help spread the word about COVID-19 safety measures, new orders, requirements and available resources, especially in those neighborhoods that have been hard hit by COVID-19.

Team members have already visited more than 3,000 businesses and spoken to 1,400 workers and residents this month, including in East San Jose and Gilroy, two areas where residents are far more likely to have contracted coronavirus.

The team consists of about two dozen members, including bilingual workers, who can provide information in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and other languages.

The County is conducting outreach with partners that include Working Partnerships USA, Si Se Puede Collective, Community Health Partnership, and Roots Community Health Center, which coordinates with Ujima Adult and Family Services, the African American Community Service Agency and Unity Care.

Helping businesses comply with safety measures and encouraging essential workers to get tested regularly are two of the most important tools the County has to stop the virus from spreading. On June 2, the Board of Supervisors approved my initiative to strengthen outreach in high risk communities with a grassroots approach. Thank you to the Team and the County’s partners for making this happen.

For questions about your business or workplace operating under the current COVID-19 regulations in Santa Clara County, call 408-961-5500, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or click here to ask a question.

COVID-19 Dashboards Update

According to County Public Health Dashboards, as of Sunday, there were 21,153 reported COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County, an increase of 505 cases since a week ago. These are cumulative numbers and don’t reflect the number of people who have recovered or those who may have COVID-19 but have not been tested; 312 people have died, an increase of 12, and 86 are now in hospitals, a decrease of 17; 794,676 people have been tested, with a seven-day average positivity rate of 2.3%.
The cumulative total of cases in California is 802,308, and 15,587 people have died; 14.3 million have been tested, with an average 14-day positivity rate of 2.9%.

In the U.S., there were 7.2 million cases and 208,118 deaths.

Globally, there are 33.1 million cases and 998,696 deaths.

**New FAQs related to the County's Risk Reduction Order**

This week, the [FAQs for the County's Risk Reduction Order](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462&simpl=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462) were updated by our Public Health Officer in a few areas, including clarifying the definition of “healthcare facility” under the order, which outlines when med spas would be considered a healthcare facility. In these past couple of weeks, I worked with local theatres to advocate that County guidance be updated by our Public Health Officer to allow for the livestreaming or recording of performances, services and classes for remote viewers. Thank you to the theatres and County personnel that worked together to make this happen. In addition to these changes, earlier this month, rules for singing, chanting, shouting, and the use of wind instruments at permitted outdoor gatherings were added to the County’s Mandatory [Directive for Gatherings](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462&simpl=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462).

**Recommendations for Institutions of Higher Education**

On September 17, the County Public Health Department published a letter providing recommendations for institutions of higher education to help reduce COVID-19 transmission risk during the 2020-21 school year if they choose to bring students back to campus for in-person instruction. To read the letter, click [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462&simpl=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462).

**2020 Census Countdown – Help Spread the Word!**

Of the 701,000 households in Santa Clara County, over 538,000 have self-responded to the census.

An accurate count is crucial for the County to receive federal funding for roads, hospitals, schools and other important services.

The 2020 Census questionnaire can be completed at [my2020census.gov](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462&simpl=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462) or by a toll-free call to 844-330-2020. Whether online or via telephone, the census questionnaire is available in multiple languages, including Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Also, the count of the unhoused community is happening this weekend. U.S. Census Bureau enumerators and the County’s canvassers are visiting encampments to ensure our unhoused populations are counted.

**Public Health Updates Guidance for Isolation of Individuals with COVID-19**

The County Public Health Department has [updated its isolation guidance](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=cb2fc1e664&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462&simpl=msg-f%3A1679120894877604462), reducing the amount of time necessary for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 to remain separated from those who are not infected. This change was made to stay consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Under the updated guidance, people who test positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms may discontinue isolation when:

- at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first started; and
- at least 24 hours have passed since a fever has ended without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- other symptoms have improved.

People who test positive for COVID-19 but never experience symptoms may discontinue isolation when at least 10 days have passed since the first positive test was collected.

This updated guidance has been incorporated into all relevant local guidance documents, such as the County’s standard “return to work and school” letter, which makes clear to
employers and school administrators how long workers and students who test positive for COVID must isolate at home. Employees and students are considered no longer contagious and may return to work or school when they meet the criteria described above. Anyone needing this letter for proof of their ability to return to school or work, can find it here.

Additional information about isolation and quarantine guidance can always be found at www.sccstayhome.org.

Testing Locations this Week, September 28 through October 3

The community testing program operated by Santa Clara Valley Medical Center continues to offer drop-in and appointment-based testing at multiple locations. Testing is free and available to anyone, regardless of insurance or immigration status. Below are the major County operated testing sites for the coming week. For those sites requiring appointments, residents can now book an appointment in Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish, or English.

Appointments can be booked up to 5 days in advance at the Fairgrounds and up to 7 days in advance at the rotating city sites. Visit www.sccfreetest.org for additional testing options.

Appointment-Based Testing – Drive-through/Walk-Up/Bike Access

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds – Lot A: 344 Tully Road, San Jose, parking lot across from Gate B and across from the Blue Arch

- Tuesdays through Fridays from noon to 6:30 p.m.
- Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Free flu shot available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Appointment-Based Testing – Walk-up

Testing hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Sunnyvale: Murphy Park, 260 N. Sunnyvale Avenue on Monday, September 28
- Saratoga: Friendship Hall, 19848 Prospect Road on Tuesday, September 29
- Santa Clara: Santa Clara Central Library, 2635 Homestead Road on Wednesday, September 30
- Los Altos Hills: Council Chambers, 26379 W. Fremont Road on Friday, October 2

Drop-in Testing – Walk-Up:

- Overfelt High School, Gymnasium: 1835 Cunningham Avenue, San José Tuesday, September 29 through Friday, October 2, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- South County Annex (formerly Del Buono Elementary): 9300 Wren Avenue, Gilroy Tuesday, September 29 through Friday, October 2 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Day on the Bay 2020: A Virtual Boat Tour of the South Bay

My annual Day on the Bay multicultural and resource festival is going virtual this year! In place of this year’s Day on the Bay, I have joined forces with the Santa Clara County Parks Department to bring you a video tour of the county’s South Bay Boat Tour Field Trip Program – an actual “Day on the Bay.”

The film will be launched for the first time ever at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 11, 2020. Please register at www.tinyurl.com/DOTB2020.

The film tour will later be shared with teachers from all around Santa Clara County to provide students with firsthand exposure to the Bay, its wildlife and its connection to our local communities while teaching them the impacts of climate change.

We hope you all take a moment to watch this important film. Please feel free to share among your networks.

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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