Dear Friends,

Today, the County Public Health Officer issued a Revised Risk Reduction Order, which will go into effect when the County moves into the State’s Orange Tier, that will allow limited capacity indoor dining and indoor gatherings.

For the sake of struggling restaurant owners who have been following public health guidelines for outdoor dining, and for churches that have been following guidelines for worship services, I strongly support the risk reduction order’s new modifications and hope that we can move into the Orange Tier soon. The earliest the state could change the County’s designation would be October 13, and it would take effect on October 14.

The Revised Risk Reduction Order allows for greater consistency and uniformity with the State’s Orange Tier framework. The following business and activities will be allowed to resume:

- Outdoor gatherings of up to 200 people and indoor gatherings of up to 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer.
- Indoor dining up to 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer.

More information on the order is available in the Executive Summary and Revised Risk Reduction Order and at the District 3 website at supervisorcortese.org.

These new orders will only work if all safety precautions are followed. Thank you for following the Public Health Guidelines to slow the pandemic in the County and I ask for your continued vigilance.

**New Measurement from State Focuses on Ethnicity**

While positivity rates from testing and the number of people in hospitals are decreasing, the numbers, however, are disproportionally high in some areas of the County, including East San Jose and Gilroy.

Last week, the State Department of Public Health added a new health equity measurement that recognizes the neighborhoods that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 and requires that numbers of cases, positivity rates and hospitalizations also decline in those areas to ensure no one is left behind. Beginning October 6, the State must see that the entire County is safe enough to move forward to a less restrictive category.

In Santa Clara County, 57% of the positive cases are among Latino residents, but they make up just 25.8% of the entire population, according to data on the COVID-19 Dashboards. Public Health Officials have recognized how the virus has disproportionately impacted Latino neighborhoods, and through my initiative, have strengthened outreach in multiple languages and have a team of a dozen workers who are canvassing neighborhoods where multiple languages are spoken, including English, Spanish,
Vietnamese and Chinese. They have partnered with community groups who work in these communities.

Testing sites also have been increased in these areas to increase awareness of the importance of testing and to make testing more convenient.

These efforts, and the efforts of our residents and businesses, have helped narrow the gap and have kept our community safer. Now the County must show progress in this new measurement that focuses on census tracts that are considered disadvantaged through a measurement of socioeconomic opportunity. In this County, these are census tracts in East San Jose and South County.

This new measure reinforces one of the main lessons of the pandemic: We’re all in this together. If one community faces elevated transmission, all of our communities are at higher risk. The safety of our younger residents affects those who are older. The health of our essential workers is intertwined with their patients. We are only as safe as our fellow residents.

Thank you to all of you who make daily sacrifices to help stop the spread of coronavirus, and to all essential workers on the frontline of the fight.

**East San Jose Drop-In COVID-19 Test Center Moving to New Location**

The free, no-appointment COVID-19 testing site in East San Jose is moving to Emmanuel Baptist Church at 467 N. White Road, with testing available from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The site is expected to stay active through the end of the year.

The Gilroy pop-up site remains in operation at the South County Annex, 9300 Wren Ave., 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. In addition, there will be free pop-up testing at a third site for one day next week in conjunction with the start of Binational Health Week, at the Children’s Discovery Museum of San José at 180 Woz Way. The site will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 10.

Healthcare providers such as Kaiser Permanente, Sutter/Palo Alto Medical Foundation and others are required by County order to offer free testing to symptomatic persons, persons who have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case, and all essential workers, including teachers, healthcare workers, grocery store clerks and people who work in agriculture or food manufacturing. For more information on testing rights, see our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

This week, **appointment-only** testing will be conducted at sites in Santa Clara, Mountain View, Cupertino, Campbell and Palo Alto. Appointments can be made starting **seven days in advance** of the testing date until all slots are reserved at [www.sccfreetest.org](http://www.sccfreetest.org) or call 2-1-1. Appointment-based testing is also available in San José at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, with appointments now available **five days in advance**.

On Saturdays through December 12, drop-in flu vaccinations are available at the Fairgrounds Expo Hall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information is available [here](#).

**COVID-19 Dashboards Update**

According to County Public Health **Dashboards**, as of Sunday, there were 21,840 reported COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County, an increase of 461 cases since Wednesday. 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; 344 people have died, an increase of 22 since Wednesday, and 76 are now in hospitals, a decrease of 11 since Wednesday; 803,285 people have been tested, with a seven-day average positivity rate of 1.8%, down from 2.1% on Wednesday.

The cumulative total of cases in California is 826,794, and 16,149 people have died; 15.3 million have been tested, with an average 14-day positivity rate of 2.8%.

In the U.S., there were 7.5 million cases and 213,065 deaths.
Globally, there are 35.2 million cases and 1,038,423 deaths.

Serve Up Safety in the Kitchen for Fire Protection Week

The Santa Clara County Library District is recognizing Fire Protection Week now through October 10. Originally proclaimed as a national observance by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925, this week aims to teach people how to stay safe in case of a fire. The week was designated for the first week of October to coincide with the commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

This year’s theme is Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen. According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking is the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries, and unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen.

Another type of fire everyone should always be prepared for is wildfire. The fires burning in the North Bay are an important reminder to have a preparedness plan ready in case of emergency. Also make sure to sign up for AlertSCC, a free and easy way to get emergency alerts sent to your cell phone, landline or email, including fire, earthquake or severe weather.

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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