New Guidelines on Outdoor Gatherings

Dear Friends,

Along with moving Santa Clara County from the Red Tier (substantial submission) to the Orange Tier (substantial submission) last week, which allowed limited indoor dining and gatherings, the State also issued new guidelines on outdoor gatherings that the County is following.

The State is now allowing outdoor social gatherings of up to three households for no longer than two hours and only if all physical distancing and other safety measures are followed. The State previously only allowed gatherings for worship services, cultural ceremonies and protests or political activities.

Here are some of the State’s mandates and recommendations:

- Keep the households that you interact with stable over time. By spending time with the same people, risk of transmission is reduced. Participating in multiple gatherings with different households or groups is strongly discouraged.
- The host should collect names of all attendees and contact information in case contact tracing is needed later.
- Outdoor gatherings are significantly safer than indoor gatherings. Attendees may go inside to use restrooms as long as the restrooms are frequently sanitized.
- Gatherings may occur in outdoor spaces that are covered by umbrellas, canopies, awnings, roofs, and other shade structures provided that at least three sides of the space, or 75 percent, are open to the outdoors.
- A gathering of no more than three households is permitted in a public park or other outdoor space, even if unrelated gatherings of other groups up to three households are also occurring in the same park or other outdoor space. If multiple such gatherings are occurring, mixing between group gatherings is not allowed. Additionally, multiple gatherings of three households cannot be jointly organized or coordinated to occur in the same public park or other outdoor space at the same time – this would constitute a gathering exceeding the permitted size.
- When gathering, face coverings must be worn in accordance with the CDPH Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings.
- People at gatherings may remove their face coverings briefly to eat or drink as long as they stay at least 6 feet away from everyone outside their own household and put their face covering back on as soon as they are done with the activity.
- Face coverings can also be removed to meet urgent medical needs, for example, to use an asthma inhaler, take medication or if one is feeling light-headed.

Click here for all the State’s guidelines on outdoor gatherings.

New FAQs on to the County’s Risk Reduction Order

The County has updated its FAQs for the County’s Risk Reduction Order that also gives more details about safe outdoor gatherings. For example, the County has refined the
definition of “outdoor facility” under the Order. Now, to qualify as outdoors, a facility must either be uncovered with no shade structure and have at least 25 percent of its perimeter open to the outdoors or, if the facility is covered by a shade structure of some kind, then at least 50 percent of the perimeter must be open. See the FAQ for the full definition. Please note that the mandatory directive for outdoor dining still needs to be revised to reflect this updated definition. However, the FAQ language reflects the current rule now in effect.

**Free PPE Available for San Jose Non-profits**

San Jose-based nonprofit organizations, or nonprofits that serve San Jose residents, can now request free Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) directly from the Valley Medical Center (VMC) Foundation through a partnership with the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits and the City of San José. To request PPE, organizations must complete this survey. The survey can also be found through the VMC Foundation’s COVID-19 page at this link. If you have any questions, contact Ignacio Vallejo at Ignacio.Vallejo@hhs.sccgov.org.

**COVID-19 Dashboards Update**

According to County Public Health Dashboards, as of Monday, October 19, there were 23,355 reported COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County, an increase of 614 cases since one week prior. 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; 378 people have died, an increase of 15 since last Monday, and 87 are now in hospitals, an increase of 7 from the past week; 911,799 people have been tested, with a seven-day average positivity rate of 1.6%, down from 1.7% a week ago.

The cumulative total of cases in California is 870,791 and 16,970 people have died; 17.3 million have been tested, with an average 14-day positivity rate of 2.5%.

In the U.S., there were 8,276,396 million cases and 223,284 deaths.

Globally, there are 40.2 million cases and 1,115,985 deaths.

**County Testing Locations – Week of October 19**

The community testing program operated by Santa Clara Valley Medical Center continues to offer drop-in and appointment-based COVID-19 testing at multiple locations across the county. As always, testing is free and available to anyone, regardless of insurance or immigration status. For County operated sites requiring appointments, residents can book appointments 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-based sites. Visit www.sccfreetest.org for additional testing options. Those with healthcare coverage with systems 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.” Examples of “essential workers” include teachers, healthcare workers, grocery store clerks and agricultural or food manufacturing workers.

**Appointment-Based Testing – Walk-up from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

- **Mountain View:** Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street on Tuesday, October 20
- **Cupertino:** Cupertino Senior Center, 21251 Stevens Creek Boulevard on Wednesday, October 21
- **Campbell:** Orchard City Banquet Hall, 1 W. Campbell Avenues on Thursday, October 22
- **Palo Alto:** Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road on Friday, October 23

**Additional Community-Based Testing Offered by Roots, Gardner and AACI**

Every Wednesday, both Roots Community Health Center and Gardner Health Services are organizing free, community-based, drop-in COVID-19 testing events in San José.
Asian Americans for Community Involvement provides similar community-based testing every Friday at their Story Road site. See below for specific testing locations. These are walk-up testing events. No appointments are necessary and all individuals are served regardless of insurance or immigration status.

- Roots Community Health Center COVID-19 Testing:  
  - Antioch Baptist Church parking lot, **268 E. Julian Street**, every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - For more information or to pre-register, see [here](#) or call 408-490-4710
- Gardner Health Services COVID-19 Testing:  
  - Mexican Heritage Plaza, **1700 Alum Rock Avenue**, every Wednesday from 1 to 7 p.m.
  - For more information, call 408-457-7100
- AACI Health Center COVID-19 Testing:  
  - Story Road Clinic, **749 Story Road, #50**, every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.
  - For more information, call 408-975-2763

**Virtual Boat Tour of the South Bay Off to a Great Start**

Nearly 700 people so far have joined Our Day on the Bay boat tour along the Alviso Slough from the Alviso Marina County Park, which was launched on October 11. You can be the next!

Because COVID-19 prevents us from having our traditional Day on the Bay multicultural festival at the Alviso Marina County Park, which has drawn 10,000 guests to the park, I teamed up with the County Parks Department to produce this video tour.

The tour is a truly an educational experience providing a history of the Alviso area, the plants, birds and mammals that live in the wetlands and how the wetlands support flood control while combating the impacts of climate change. That’s why my office is sharing the tour with teachers to share with their students.

The tour is available to anyone at anytime at this link: [www.tinyurl.com/VirtualDOB](http://www.tinyurl.com/VirtualDOB). Hop aboard and enjoy the beauty of the wetlands!

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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