State Forces County Back to Purple

"Supervisor Dave Cortese <SupervisorDaveCortese@davecortese.com>  
Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 3:47 PM

To: Gnosis Test Email <michaelefranzino@gmail.com>

Dear Friends,

Effective on Tuesday, November 17, the State will move Santa Clara County back the purple tier (widespread transmission), the most restrictive on the State’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy, along with 39 other counties.

This means that indoor dining will no longer be allowed, gyms and fitness centers can only operate outdoors, indoor gatherings will be prohibited, and retail stores will be limited to 25% capacity.

The County, currently in the orange tier (moderate transmission), had expected to be moved back to red (substantial transmission) on Tuesday, but because of the alarming rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations throughout the state and country, the State made the announcement on Monday, November 16, that it was imposing a more extreme response.

The County will work today to change the mandates and guidelines on its website to reflect the purple tier restrictions, and will provide information updates during a presentation to the Board of Supervisors at our Tuesday meeting. On Friday, County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody announced that indoor dining would not be allowed, effective on Tuesday. That order will now be imposed by the State.

With the winter and holidays approaching, I know this is not welcome news. But the recent daily rise in cases has been consistently in the triple digits. The only way to slow this virus is to limit our exposure to it by following the basic guidelines: wear masks, keep at least a six-foot physical distance away from others not in your household, avoid gatherings, wash your hands frequently and remember that outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities.

These are safety measures we have been doing, and I thank you for your vigilance in following the County’s orders, your compassion in helping others and the sacrifices you’ve been making.
One thing Dr. Sara Cody expresses confidently is that we will get through this. I agree with her. I am so proud of living in a County with residents who have been taking this pandemic seriously and I know you will take the necessary steps to keep yourselves, your families and your communities safe.

To watch Dr. Cody’s appearance on my Saturday, November 14, Town Hall, visit facebook.com/davecortesegov.

COVID-19 Dashboards Update

According to County Public Health Dashboards, as of Monday, November 16, there were 28,307 reported COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County, an increase of 1,560 cases since Monday, November 9. 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; 444 people have died, an increase of 11 since Monday, November 9, and 135 are now in hospitals, an increase of 32 since November 9; 1,176,471 people have been tested, with a seven-day average positivity rate of 2.6%, up from 1.8% on November 9.

The cumulative total of cases in California is 1,019,345 and 18,253 people have died; 20.8 million have been tested, with an average 14-day positivity rate of 4.4%.

In the U.S., there were 11.1 million cases and 250,003 deaths. Globally, there are 54.6 million cases and 1,321,403 deaths.

Recommendations for Safer Holidays and Travel

Health Officers representing 10 Bay Area counties and the City of Berkeley have issued joint recommendations for staying safe during the holidays. The safest way to celebrate this holiday season is virtually or with members of your household.

With this in mind, Santa Clara County has provided some tips for how to celebrate without gathering (see here for more information). The joint recommendations advise that if you do gather in person, keep it small, short, outdoors, and stable (avoid attending multiple gatherings with different groups). All non-essential travel, including holiday travel is not recommended.

For those who must travel, the recommendations provide some tips to help reduce your risk for catching or spreading COVID-19. Residents who travel outside the Bay Area are strongly advised to self-quarantine for 14 days after their return if activities while travelling put them at higher risk. The State has also issued a statewide travel advisory, urging residents to avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries and strongly encourages visitors or residents returning home from out of state to self-quarantine for 14 days. This travel advisory was issued jointly with the states of Oregon and Washington. Click here for additional information.

Tests for Flu Available at COVID-19 Testing Sites

Free COVID-19 testing facilities at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds and the rotating city-based sites now include a test for influenza, offering an added benefit with no additional cost, inconvenience, or additional procedure.

The combination tests are also available at Valley Medical Center clinics for those showing symptoms. COVID-19 tests at the County pop-up testing facilities, Emmanuel Baptist Church in San Jose, and the South County Annex in Gilroy, do not include the influenza screening because these sites are designed for people without symptoms.

This week, appointment-only COVID-19 testing including the influenza test will be conducted at sites in Milpitas, 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.

Free Flu Shots Every Saturday.
The County will continue to offer free flu shots from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday through December 12 (with the exception of Thanksgiving weekend) at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds.

The car entrance for general parking at the Fairgrounds site is Gate D, 2542 Monterey Road, San José. No appointments are needed. Masks are required and all are welcome regardless of insurance or immigration status. For more information in multiple languages see here: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese. Flu shots are also available at Valley Medical Center pharmacies on weekdays. No appointment is needed. See here for more information and a schedule.

**Virtual Boat Tour of the South Bay**

Join Our Day on the Bay boat tour along the Alviso Slough from the Alviso Marina County Park, which was launched on October 11.

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 available to anyone at any time at this link: [http://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

Click [here](#) to manage your communication preferences