Dear Lee,

Our doctors and nurses are putting their health at risk every day as they continue to provide medical assistance to those who desperately need our help during the COVID-19 emergency.

Join me and Congressman Ro Khanna at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, for “Protect our Heroes,” an online fundraiser in support of our frontline healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can stream the live event at this link.

Donations in support of our healthcare workers can be made here: https://tinyurl.com/SCCHealthcareWorkers.

On Tuesday, April 7, the Board of Supervisors approved my request for heightened measures to protect frontline healthcare workers from being exposed and later transmitting COVID-19 to patients.

Our healthcare professionals are putting patients, themselves, and their families at risk since they come into close daily contact with their patients for prolonged periods of time. This is why my Office has helped coordinate the donation of thousands of N95 masks, protective supplies, and more to our County Hospitals.

Just yesterday, The Taiwanese American Chamber of Commerce in North California donated 10,000 protective masks to County healthcare workers. The donation was made through my Office to the Valley Medical Center Foundation. The masks arrived as a gift from the organization’s President Christine Yu and Vice President David Huang, pictured here.

I’d also like to thank the Art of Living Foundation for its generous donation of 1,500 N95 masks through our Office as well as the Evergreen Islamic Center and Faisal Yazadi for their generous...
Thank you for your partnership and generosity!

I will continue to appeal for more personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves, and protective coveralls for our frontline heroes.

**Santa Clara County COVID-19 Assistance Navigation Launched**

Today, I announced the launch of Santa Clara County CAN: COVID-19 Assistance Navigation, a hotline that will help people facing financial hardship apply for safety net services and connect with legal aid as needed. I’ve heard from so many families who need help and don’t know where to turn. I am proud that our community partner, the Fair Workplace Collaborative, along with the Santa Clara County Office of Labor Standards Enforcement, will help working families apply for safety net programs such as unemployment insurance, disability and paid family leave. Anyone with questions can call the new Santa Clara County CAN hotline at 408-809-2124. Support is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Mandarin, with more languages to come.

Santa Clara County CAN will help people:

- Navigate safety net services like unemployment, food, housing, and others by helping people understand what assistance is available and walking them through the application process.
- Connect with legal aid attorneys who can answer questions about work-related issues, such as questions related to employment and income.

I spearheaded the creation of our Office of Labor Standards Enforcement because I understand how our community thrives when people’s rights at work are upheld. We cannot have a thriving community unless we can rest assured that workers receive a day’s pay for a day’s work, parents will return safely to their kids at night, and no one is ever afraid of retaliation when they speak out against something wrong. Now more than ever, during this pandemic, we need to provide resources and protection for abused workers.

**Update on Coronavirus Cases and Reminder of Dashboards**

The Public Health Department’s Coronavirus website dashboards show that there are 1,380 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County and 46 deaths, including 95 new cases. There are 278 COVID-19 patients hospitalized and 13,008 Santa Clara County residents have been tested. About 11% are testing positive. Click [here](https://sccphd.org/coronavirus) to view the dashboards on the [sccphd.org/coronavirus](https://sccphd.org/coronavirus) web page.

**COVID-19 Radio Town Hall with County CEO Dr. Jeff Smith**

I will be hosting my next Radio Town Hall this Saturday, April 11, from 7 to 8 p.m. on radio channel 1500 AM: “KSJX Multicultural Radio”. Join me and County CEO Dr. Jeff Smith for a discussion about how our
County and our residents have responded to the COVID-19 health emergency. Call 408-914-0183 to ask your questions on the air. You can also text us at 408-480-7833. In case you aren’t able to have your call connected to the radio station, we will be sure to answer every question that is sent to us. I look forward to giving an update to our community and answering your questions.

Food Fridays with an Easter Cheer!

I’d like to wish everyone and their families a safe and happy Easter and Passover. I know this is a difficult time with many of us away from our loved ones and many holiday traditions cancelled. I’ve seen so many of you step up to fight this virus and help your fellow community members. Please join me this holiday season in helping a family in need.

Our canned goods collection will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 10, at Cambrian Park Plaza at the corner of Union Avenue and Camden Avenue. We will deliver the food the same day, and of course, observe all social distancing guidelines!

The Campbell Kiwanis Club normally puts on an Easter Parade and Easter Egg Hunt. So, in keeping with their custom of spreading Easter cheer, they will have their bright yellow semi-truck decked out for Easter, having two 6-foot tall Easter bunnies. The bunny will be playing festive recorded music!

Relief for Insurance Premiums

The Department of Insurance issued a notice requesting all insurance companies grant a 60-day grace period to policyholders (beginning March 18). Contact your insurance company if you need additional time to pay your premium. More information about relief for insurance premiums due to COVID-19 can be found here: https://bit.ly/2Jb7yx5

Help with Electricity Bills

San José Clean Energy has created a guide of resources to help residents save on their electricity bills as they spend more time at home. While the page is aimed toward San José Clean Energy customers, it includes plenty of information on discount programs and financial assistance available to utility customers across the County.

What is the new Federal CARES Act Unemployment Assistance?

The federal government has approved funding for additional UI benefits to workers impacted by COVID-19, including the self-employed. The EDD has received only overarching information from the U.S. Department of Labor but needs further details to
finish building the programming for implementing these changes. These benefits include an additional $600 on top of the current weekly benefit amount, a new 13-week extension of benefits paid for by the federal government when someone exhausts their regular Unemployment Insurance claim, and a brand-new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which will help the self-employed.

**Update on Temporary Shelter for our Unhoused**

The 8,000 unsheltered and unhoused residents in our County are especially vulnerable to a rapid-spreading virus such as COVID-19. Our current public health crisis has only made it clearer that we must do everything in our power to find shelter for our unhoused neighbors.

On April 7, the Board of Supervisors approved my request for the County to explore sites in the City of Milpitas to be used as temporary housing for homeless individuals and families. County Staff will be bringing back options for the Board to consider.

I will be sure to keep you in the loop for when discussion of this item comes back to the Board. The Board also voted in favor a robust public input process for when the staff returns to the Board with a final report. We will be reaching out to community members, elected officials, and other stakeholders.

The County has been stepping up efforts to house and care for homeless individuals, many who live in camps throughout the County, where they live in close proximity to each other. The Office of Supportive Housing has identified 602 spaces that can be used for temporary shelter and housing, including the County Fairgrounds, San Jose’s Parkside Hall and South Hall. In addition, the City of San Jose received from the State 105 trailers that will be refurbished for temporary housing.

As always, I am wishing you well during this unprecedented time. For questions, concerns or suggestions, please call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org.

Thank you,

Dave Cortese  
County Supervisor, Third District