Dear Friends,

As we enter week four of shelter in place, you may be asking: Is this working to slow the outbreak of COVID-19? And, how long will we need to follow these guidelines?

Dr. Sara Cody, the County's Health Officer, answered the first question during a presentation to the Board of Supervisors at today’s meeting. The statistics that Dr. Cody shared with us show that, yes, it’s working.

The charts that she shared with us showed projections of the number of cases that would have been expected if we hadn’t taken any shelter in place measures. The projection is 50,000 cases by May 1, and we are currently at 1,200. Of course, these are estimates, but they are based on the growth we've seen since February 9 when we had just nine cases.

Another trend is the rates of cases doubling, which also has slowed down. In early March, the cases were doubling every three days. Now, that rate for the number of cases doubling is about every two weeks.

These trends are very positive and are the results of our following the shelter in place guidelines by staying at home, only going out when necessary, wearing masks when we’re around others and quarantining ourselves when we do not feel well.

But don’t think for a minute that it is time to relax our shelter in place measures. Dr. Cody says we still haven’t reached a peak in cases and the numbers would surely rise if we don’t follow the guidelines. So, keep up the good work.

How long will shelter in place last? That question is harder to answer.

Dr. Cody says public health officials would need to reach four targets before moving beyond the shelter in place phase: Our hospitals would have the capacity to treat everyone who needs care, we would have the ability to test broadly, we would be able to carefully investigate every case, and we would see a sustained reduction in cases for at least two weeks, which is the incubation period.

We’re not there yet, but we have seen encouraging signs. In the words of Dr. Cody, “There is a lot of uncertainty. We need to get comfortable with uncertainty. We’re in it for the long haul.”

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

The Public Health Department’s Coronavirus website reports that there are 1,285 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County and 43 deaths. For more
information, including available hospital beds, available equipment and results of testing, visit sccphd.org/coronavirus.

**Join the Meeting with Together We Will/Indivisible Los Gatos**

I will be speaking to members of Together We Will/Indivisible Los Gatos at the chapter’s meeting beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, through Zoom. I will be discussing how community activism and government can continue through the COVID-19 pandemic. RSVP to tww.losgatos@gmail.com for details to join the online meeting.

**Small Business Webinar – Video**

Thank you to all of you who were able to join our Webinar with Small Business Development Center Director Dennis King this past weekend. We were able to answer many of your questions regarding the different resources available to small businesses during the COVID-19 emergency. In case you missed it, you can watch a recording of the webinar at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7n3TVNNn1k

**Food Friday Donation Drive**

Please join me and Mike Hennessey for a canned goods collection 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. Please join us in helping a family in need. We will deliver the food the same day.

**In the News**

Did you get a chance to see recent coverage of our work in your local news? Check out the below links for some recent updates:

KTVU Fox: [Santa Clara County adds 602 temporary shelter spaces to slow COVID-19 spread](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7n3TVNNn1k)

Silicon Valley Business Journal: [Silicon Valley counties move to protect two different, but very vulnerable, populations](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7n3TVNNn1k)

**California Jobs Resource Website**

OnwardCA is an initiative of companies, foundations, and humans to provide California workers displaced by COVID-19 essential life services and return to work as quickly as possible. The site is designed to help people get resources such as money or groceries or childcare. There are also resources to help constituents upskill, reskill, or refresh to as well as job matching links.

**County Anti-Discrimination Efforts**

Please also be reminded that in times of adversity, scapegoating people by race, ancestry, or national origin has too frequently been a result of those who respond out of fear or lack of information. The Equal Opportunity Department remains open and committed to investigating reports of discrimination or conducting educational intervention during these challenging times. EOD can be reached by email at EOD@ceo.sccgov.org or by phone at (408) 993-4840.

I couldn’t be more proud of how our County and our residents have responded to the biggest health crisis of our generation. As always, thank you for your cooperation, your
generosity in giving to COVID-19 relief funds, and your compassion for others.

You can reach my office at 408-299-5030 and email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org.

Sincerely,

Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District

Click here to manage your communication preferences