Dear Community Partners,

We write to provide our latest update related to the County’s COVID-19 response efforts. The Bay Areawide extended [Shelter in Place Order](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/order-health-officer-050420.aspx) went into effect yesterday. Over the weekend, County staff worked swiftly to update our web resources to help our residents better understand the updated guidelines. Thanks to the questions raised by the community, we have also improved our [FAQ page](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx#faq). We want to highlight two sections where we have received many questions: [Construction Guidance](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/learn-what-to-do.aspx#construction) and [Recreational Activities and Facilities Guidance](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/learn-what-to-do.aspx#recreation). We will continue to update these FAQs as we hear more from the community.

At today’s Board of Supervisors’ meeting, County Executive Officer Dr. Jeff Smith, Hospital Surge Coordinator Dr. Jennifer Tong, and Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody made a [presentation](http://sccgov.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=201854&MeetingID=12194) on the next phase of the Public Health Department and County Emergency Operations Center response to COVID-19.  Dr. Smith provided an update on COVID-19 testing. Access to testing is rapidly expanding throughout the County.  However, we still have substantial work to do.  We are currently conducting approximately 50 tests/100,000 residents per day across the County.  Our preliminary goal is 200 tests/100,000 residents per day.  Currently many testing locations are underutilized. Several laboratories have recently expanded their capacity and are not yet being sent as many specimens as they now have the capacity to test. Similarly, healthcare providers haven’t yet ramped up collecting specimens from a much larger group of patients.  The Public Health Department recently [updated guidance](https://mailchi.mp/phd.sccgov.org/health-alert-guidance-on-expansion-of-covid-19-testing-in-santa-clara-county-p1) for expanded testing, which now includes testing *all* individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.  We ask you as community leaders to help us notify residents of the new guidance related to testing and where individuals can get tested.  Please let community members you work with know about the County’s COVID-19 new testing webpage, which includes much of this information, at [sccgov.org/cv19testing](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/pages/covid19-testing.aspx).  Additional information on testing is below.

Dr. Tong informed the Board of Supervisors that acute care hospitals’ basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs are generally being met, but this is because patient volume is extremely low. As patient volumes return to normal, PPE usage will increase significantly, and the international, national, state, and local shortage of PPE is ongoing. Regular sized N95 masks and gowns are key items still in short supply. Soon, we will be asking hospitals to certify whether they have a 30-day supply of PPE weekly.

Dr. Cody reported that the Public Health Department is now in the process of rapidly and massively expanding case investigation and contact tracing. Currently, we have capacity to investigate 25 new cases a day, each of whom have few contacts because of the Shelter in Place Order. We believe we will need capacity to investigate and contact trace 50 to 75 cases a day, with an anticipated average of 40 contacts per case. To reach this goal, we will need to expand the current team to approximately 1,000 members.  The expanded team will be staffed by County and other public agency staff, contract staff, as well as community volunteers who are available to work on this for at least 6 to 12 months. We appreciate the offers that we have received from from the community. Specific expertise is required for many of these positions, and the Public Health Department is currently evaluating those offers. Nonprofit partner [Heluna Health](https://www.helunahealth.org/) is providing the assistance needed to rapidly scale this effort.

A significant number of individuals will need to isolate or quarantine to make our contact tracing efforts effective. We will need substantial support from cities and other community partners to help provide housing, food, income support, and child and elder care for residents who need that help. The Board of Supervisors today also heard reports about how COVID-19 is affecting operations at departments related to public safety and justice, behavioral health, and childcare. You can find reports and video from the meeting [here](http://sccgov.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=12194).

**New Community Testing Sites and Webpage**

* Following Governor Gavin Newsom’s recent [announcement](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/04/22/governor-newsom-announces-plan-to-resume-delayed-health-care-that-was-deferred-as-hospitals-prepared-for-covid-19-surge/) that more community testing sites would open across the state focused on underserved communities, the County of Santa Clara, in partnership with the County Office of Education, is facilitating the opening of two new testing sites later this week. These new sites are part of 80 testing sites statewide operated through a partnership between the state, counties, and [OptumServe](https://www.optum.com/solutions/government/federal.html), a private health services firm. Testing at the two new sites will be by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, individuals can call 1-888-634-1123 or visit [lhi.care/covidtesting](https://lhi.care/covidtesting" \t "_blank). The screening and testing criteria include *anyone* *experiencing symptoms* consistent with COVID-19 as well as certain asymptomatic high-risk populations.  Testing at these sites will be available to the public regardless of insurance or immigration status.  These new sites will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Each site will have the capacity to serve up to 132 individuals daily. Read the full [press release](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/press-release-05-04-2020-increased-testing-access.aspx) about these two new testing sites. The two locations are:
  + James Lick High School in East San José (57 North White Road) and
  + Christopher High School in Gilroy (850 Day Road).
* The County has also launched a new online resource for testing information and access at [sccgov.org/cv19testing](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/pages/covid19-testing.aspx). The page includes information about County and non-government locations where members of the public can be tested. It also includes information about testing for people who do not have insurance or access to a doctor.
* Finally, as mentioned above, the County Public Health Department released important [new guidance](https://mailchi.mp/phd.sccgov.org/health-alert-guidance-on-expansion-of-covid-19-testing-in-santa-clara-county-p1) for all local healthcare providers regarding which individuals should be tested for COVID-19.  Public Health is now recommending providers offer testing to anyone experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as well as certain asymptomatic, high risk groups.

**Public Health Dispatch Newsletter**

* Over the weekend, the Public Health Department released the first issue of its Public Health Dispatch newsletter with the goal of delivering the latest health information to members of the community. The first issue can be read [online](https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=b7704d67c212a9bf7f81ccf82&id=c5d33c5220). Residents can subscribe [here](https://sccgov.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=b7704d67c212a9bf7f81ccf82&id=8d3ac512d7).

**Education Resources for Parents**

* The Santa Clara County Office of Education has posted [resources](https://www.sccoe.org/covid-19/Pages/for-parents.aspx) for parents, including at-home learning resources by grade level, guides for talking to children about COVID-19, and accessibility tools for students with special needs.
* The County Office of Education’s [Inclusion Collaborative](http://www.inclusioncollaborative.org/) has also expanded its resources to include a weekly [Family Resource Chat](https://www.sccoe.org/news/NR/Pages/sccoe-inclusion-collaborative-launches-new-family-resource-chat.aspx) forum where parents can learn and practice education techniques with an Inclusion Training Specialist, exchange information, and connect with each other. The Warmline is also available for free, 8 hours for per day, at (408) 453-6651. Languages include Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Korean.

**Emergency Funds for Freelancers and Creatives**

* For many, slowing the spread of coronavirus means stopping work entirely—and losing months of income. Some self-employed people will not qualify for unemployment insurance, particularly artists who rely on informal, direct cash payments or practice without a business license. With those challenges in mind, KQED has rounded up a [list of mutual aid funds](https://www.kqed.org/arts/13876893/emergency-funds-for-freelancers-creatives-losing-income-during-coronavirus) that distribute emergency grants to artists, creative professionals and freelancers facing financial hardships.
* Locally, [SVCREATES](https://www.svcreates.org/) has established the [Arts Relief & Recovery fund](https://www.svcreates.org/svcreates-arts-relief-recovery-fund/) of emergency support for the County’s arts organizations and artists who serve our community. Services range from youth and senior arts programming for our community’s most vulnerable populations, to internationally-known music festivals and, now, virtual music concerts, theatre, dance and visual arts programs. With seed funding provided by the Castellano Family Foundation and a matching donation from the Morgan Family Foundation, the County of Santa Clara, under the leadership of Supervisor Cindy Chavez, is challenging our community to match the County’s $650,000 investment in the arts. The goal is to raise $2 million to $3 million for over 150 artists and nearly 100 small and mid-size multidisciplinary and multicultural arts organizations. Consider donating [here](https://www.svcreates.org/donate-now/).

**Face Coverings Required at Mineta San Jose International Airport**

* Starting today, all members of the public and personnel at Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) will be required to wear a face covering inside airport buildings. The new face covering requirement is in addition to the County’s existing protocols for social distancing and washing hands frequently. For exceptions to the face covering requirement and the latest COVID-19 updates at SJC, visit [flysanjose.com/coronavirus](https://www.flysanjose.com/coronavirus).

**Norcal Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) Webinars**

The mission of the Northern California Procurement Technical Assistance Center (Norcal PTAC) is to help small businesses build their government contracting capacity. Their staff of Procurement Specialists can help simplify the process of selling to government, at no cost to you. A short list of upcoming webinars hosted by Norcal PTAC are listed below:

* [Set Yourself Up for Federal Marketplace Success](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-set-yourself-up-for-federal-marketplace-success-registration-101563336674), Thursday, May 7, 2020, 10:00am to 11:00am
* [FEMA & Navy Contracting in the COVID-19 Environment Q&A,](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-fema-navy-contracting-in-the-covid-19-environment-qa-virtual-coffee-connect-series-registration-104066862788) Thursday, May 14, 2020, 10:00am to 12:00pm
* [Gain Access to Federal Contracts with HUBZone](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-gain-access-to-federal-contracts-with-hubzone-registration-95254642199), Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 10:00am to 11:00am
* [Elevate Your Business with California Multiple Award Schedules](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-elevate-your-business-with-california-multiple-award-schedules-registration-103277746520), Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 10:00am to 11:00am

**Online Trainings**

* Browse [online training related to COVID-19](http://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Pages/Coronavirus_Disease_2019_COVID_19_Training.aspx) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and other organizations (Public Health Foundation)
* Learn [how to wear and make a face covering](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html) to help slow the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)

**FAQs about the Local Health Officer Shelter in Place Order**

* We make regular updates to the FAQ documents for our local Public Health Order as new information becomes available. Residents can access them in the following languages:
  + [Shelter in Place FAQ-English](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx#faq)
  + [Shelter in Place FAQ-Chinese](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/public-health-orders-zh.aspx#faq)
  + [Shelter in Place FAQ-Spanish](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/public-health-orders-es.aspx#faq)
  + [Shelter in Place FAQ-Vietnamese](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/public-health-orders-vi.aspx#faq)
  + [Shelter in Place FAQ-Tagalog](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/public-health-orders-tl.aspx#faq)

Please continue to monitor this situation closely. More information and regular updates can be found on the [County website](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/home.aspx) and the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html).

* Any business, faith, nonprofit, labor or community leader with questions should contact [cboliaison@eoc.sccgov.org](mailto:cboliaison@eoc.sccgov.org).
* Any school-related questions should be sent to [schools@eoc.sccgov.org](mailto:schools@eoc.sccgov.org).

Thank you for your continued leadership to our community!

***CBO/Business Liaison***

***County of Santa Clara Emergency Operations Center***

Website: [http://sccphd.org/coronavirus](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/home.aspx)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sccpublichealth/>

Instagram: [@scc\_publichealth](https://www.instagram.com/scc_publichealth/?hl=en)

Twitter: [@HealthySCC](https://twitter.com/HealthySCC?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwterm%5Eprofile%3AHealthySCC&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sccgov.org%2Fsites%2Fphd%2FDiseaseInformation%2Fnovel-coronavirus%2FPages%2Fhome.aspx)