

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: March 25, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
THROUGH: Steve McHarris, City Manager *Steve McHarris*
FROM: Ashwini Kantak, Assistant City Manager *Ashwini Kantak*
SUBJECT: Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update #39

The health of our employees, residents, and businesses remains the highest priority for the City of Milpitas.

Overview:

The City of Milpitas continues to implement its response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus and the COVID-19 disease in Santa Clara County, in collaboration with the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health. The previous Council update on March 3 provided information regarding a new COVID-19 vaccine distribution system operated by Blue Shield of California as well as the announcement that Santa Clara County has met the requirements to move into the Red Tier of the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#).

As the lead agency on public health, the County is regularly updating its guidance, which is available in five different languages and can be viewed [here](#). The County also has a [data dashboard](#) that is updated with all the latest information. The City continues to work closely with the County to ensure the safety and security of our community.

Key Updates:

State

California Extends COVID-19 Supplement Paid Sick Leave and Includes Vaccinations

The California legislature passed [SB 95](#) and Governor Gavin Newsom signed the bill into law on March 20. SB 95 provides supplemental sick leave benefits to certain employees needing to take leave for various reasons prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This new law has three critical components that differentiate it from previous COVID-19 supplemental sick leave policies. First, SB 95 applies to a greater number of California employees than previous legislative efforts. Second, SB 95 allows employees to take COVID-19 supplemental sick leave for new purposes, including for vaccinations. Third, SB 95 applies retroactively to require employers to compensate certain employees who previously took unpaid leave for COVID-19 reasons.

California Sets Aside 40 percent of Vaccine Doses for most Impacted Communities

Governor Gavin Newsom's administration announced that California will lead with safety protocols and vaccine equity to end the pandemic and reopen the economy. The state has set aside 40 percent of vaccine doses for the hardest-hit communities and established a vaccine equity metric – which seeks to

increase vaccinations in those communities. The modification will shift Blueprint tier thresholds to allow slightly higher case rates per 100,000 population once more inoculations have occurred in the communities suffering the most, allowing counties to move to less restrictive tiers. The initial goal of the vaccine equity metric is to deliver a minimum of 2 million doses to the hardest-hit quarter of the state as measured by the Healthy Places Index.

COVID-19 Vaccinations Reach 15 Million

California has the highest rate of doses administered in the country at 380,370 per day. As of Tuesday, March 23, the [California Department of Public Health's vaccine dashboard](#) showed about 19.29 million doses have been shipped throughout the state (2.6 million in the past two weeks) and of those, 15.1 million have been administered. According to [Bloomberg's dashboard](#), 19.7% of California's population has received at least one shot and 13.2% are fully vaccinated.

County

Santa Clara County Moved to Orange Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy

On March 24, the State of California announced that the County of Santa Clara has met the requirements to move into the Orange Tier of the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#). This allows Orange Tier activities to resume. It is important to note that many of these activities remain very high risk even though they are now allowed. The County's [October 5th Risk Reduction Order](#), which requires everyone to follow all State orders and guidance, maintain distance, and wear face coverings as much as possible, remains in effect. The Order also requires all businesses and other entities to maximize telework, post a Social Distancing Protocol outlining specific COVID-19 safety plans, and promptly report any cases to the Public Health Department.

All activities authorized under the State's Orange Tier, including indoor dining, can resume in accordance with State capacity limits and safety protocols, including:

- Indoor dining at maximum 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer;
- Retail stores indoors with modifications;
- Gyms and fitness centers indoors at maximum 25% capacity, with indoor pools open
- Movie theaters at maximum 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer
- Family entertainment centers indoors at maximum 25% capacity with modifications for areas of increased risk of proximity; and
- Zoos, museums, and aquariums at 50% maximum indoor capacity.
- All schools are able to open for in-person instruction in the red, orange or yellow tiers.
- Both hair salons and nail salons can operate indoors with modifications in all tiers. There are no capacity limits.

The County's basic risk reduction order is still in effect requiring face coverings, following social distance protocols, teleworking where available. For more information on what the State allows in the Orange Tier, please visit [covid19.ca.gov](https://www.covid19.ca.gov).

Santa Clara County Cities to Comply with County and State Restrictions on Reopening Plans

When it comes to safely reopening City Hall and other facilities, the applicable County COVID-19 rules including the [October 5 Revised Risk Reduction Order](#) and the [Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations](#) apply. Section 9 (“Social Distancing requirements”), Section 10 (“Face Coverings”) and Section 12 (“Requirements Applicable to All Businesses”) of the County Order are especially important with respect to safely reopening. For example, even if permitted to reopen under the State’s COVID-19 regulations, government entities are required to maximize telework under Section 12(a) of the County Order. This means workers may go in to work only to complete the job duties they can’t complete from home.

City of Milpitas

In-Home Vaccination Program for Homebound Residents

City staff is working closely with the County in rolling-out an in-home vaccination program in the next few weeks. The County is following the Medicare eligibility criteria for homebound residents such as needing the help of another person or medical equipment such as crutches, a walker, or a wheelchair to leave the home, or the doctor believes that the individual’s health or illness could get worse when he/she leaves the home. The County will take the lead in setting-up the appointments, determining eligibility and will be collaborating with the City to determine locations where the vaccinations will occur potentially by zip code.

Recreation and Community Services

The City will resume or increase allowable activities with the County’s move to the Orange Tier. Any programs or services that can be held indoors will adhere to the mandated capacities.

Recreation Outdoor Sport Courts

Outdoor Basketball Courts will be re-opened for play. Signs will be installed communicating the restriction of any practice or game play to no more than 3 households. Tennis Court restrictions for doubles play are now removed so signage will be updated at all the public court facilities.

Sports and Fitness

Pool capacities have increased allowing for additional access to aquatics programs such as water aerobics and swim lessons. Increased capacities will be reflected in spring activity opportunities. Fitness rooms at both the Sports and Senior Centers will open up for 25% capacity in early April. Users will be required to reserve the fitness equipment in 45-minute intervals. Fitness room hours will coincide with existing program hours at each site to maximize scheduled staff time.

The Sports Center Large Gym will make its basketball courts available for members to use, by reservation only. Hours of availability will coincide with existing program hours to maximize scheduled staff time.

General Recreation Classes and Programs

Pre-K programs will resume with limited capacity (pods/cohorts) with a focus on outdoor sessions. Our After the Bell Program will also be adding Spring Break “Pop Up” activity dates for outdoor programming during the break from school. Additionally, we will be increasing our outdoor low contact recreation classes and outdoor youth sports camps and classes both of which are already allowed previous tiers.

Social Services & Community Engagement

Case Manager in-person appointments will be offered once a week for those residents who are struggling to receive help over the phone or virtually. Staff will also look to arrange for Senior Legal Services (SALA) & AARP Tax Appointments in person.

Community Nutrition

The Senior Center continues to provide to-go lunches to Residents daily, in addition providing delivered lunches to Terrace Gardens residents. After a mail campaign to residents with higher concentrations of seniors, participation numbers at the to-go lunch program have increased, resulting in some lunch production daily averages of over 200 meals.

The Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) food distribution site continues to successfully provide food to over 1,000 households every 1st and 3rd Saturday at Russell Middle School parking lot. Staff is working to extend the partnership between SHFB, MUSD and the City past the spring.

Milpitas Response and Preparations

The City of Milpitas continues to operate at Stage 5 (Extremely High Response) of our Pandemic Management Plan. Operating at Stage 5 translates into the suspension of all non-essential City programs and services, the closure of City facilities, and full activation of the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Our City's response will enable us to fulfill the four priorities of our Pandemic Response Plan:

1. **Protecting Our People:** Ensuring the safety and well-being of our employees.
2. **Continuity of Essential City Operations:** Sustaining delivery of critical City services.
3. **Effective Communication:** Ensuring timely and consistent communication internally with our employees and externally with our community.
4. **Support the Santa Clara County Public Health Department:** Provide resource and communication support to assist the County Public Health Officer, the County, and all our partners in mutual commitment to protect the people of our communities.

Current Status on City Services and Operations:

All City facilities are closed to the public until further notice. The Office of Emergency Services continues to operate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at a full activation level.

- **Police Department Public Lobby:** The Milpitas Police Department lobby is open during business hours, 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday excluding weekends and city holidays. Supplemental safety measures are in place to ensure the safety of our staff and visitors. Community members can contact the non-emergency number (408-586-2400) for any further questions.
- **Public Meetings:** Starting with the October 6 City Council meeting, live, audio-only comments at public meetings was introduced. All Commission and Subcommittee meetings have also transitioned to this format to facilitate live public participation by registering using the Zoom link found on each posted (or published) public meeting agenda. The public may livestream the meeting on the City's [Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube channel](#) if not able to attend the live virtual meeting.
- **City Employees:** The City is continuing to have employees work in person or remotely on essential services and other City functions. With the evolving mandatory directives from the State and County, regular communications to employees are provided to ensure adherence to the latest order. The City requires all employees entering a City facility, to use the self-check app and badge-in when entering the building for the first time. The self-check protocols are based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, State and County.
- **Permit Center and Inspection Services:** Although the Permit Center located at City Hall is closed for in-person services, staff continues to provide permit and plan review services via email, website information, telephone, and tele or web conferencing. All construction is currently allowed in Santa Clara County. However, construction activities must implement mandatory risk reduction measures, and comply with the [Mandatory Directive for Construction Projects](#). For detailed City service descriptions, refer to the latest [Permit Center and Inspection Services Information Flyer](#).

- **Recreation and Community Services:** Community programs and classes are being held outdoors with some youth cohort activities and fitness programs allowed indoors as allowed by State and County mandates. Gatherings remain cancelled until further notice, including private rentals inside City facilities and park picnic areas are open for public rental with limited attendance capacities. The Senior Center offers “to-go” lunches, as a continuation of its Senior Nutrition Lunch Program.
- **Other City Services:** Water, sewer, stormwater, and traffic signal operation services continue to operate at normal levels. Staff also continues to provide maintenance services for facilities, fleet, parks, enhanced cleaning for some City facilities, emergency services for trees and streets, and Underground Service Alert services for construction projects that are allowed under the County order. Staff continues to work with Milpitas Sanitation to ensure adequate staffing is available for solid waste collection in the City. Public Works staff are also working to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations for all public works services. The City has established a virtual Utility Call Center from employees’ homes to ensure continuity of services. Meter reading staff will continue to respond to water service calls and maintain the City’s meter reading schedule.
- **Volunteers:** The City's Milpitas Volunteer Program (MVP) continues to recruit volunteers for various community support efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Community members looking to register as a volunteer and receive regular monthly updates on local volunteer needs can [visit our volunteer page](#).

Public Information:

The City will continue to update its [COVID-19 webpage](#) that has been established specifically for information about coronavirus. We will also be providing regular public updates through our social media accounts on Facebook, Nextdoor, and Twitter.