

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: April 13, 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 #40

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 24 provided information on the State of California's move into the Orange Tier of the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#). This allows Orange Tier activities to resume. Additionally, Governor Gavin Newsom's signed [SB 95](#) into law. SB 95 provides supplemental sick leave benefits to certain employees needing to take leave for various reasons prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, 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 the most vulnerable populations.

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

Governor Newsom Outlined the State's Next Step in the COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery, Aims to Fully Reopen on June 15

California has administered more than 20 million vaccine doses, including 4 million in the State's hardest-hit communities with hospitalizations continuing to steadily decline. On April 6, Governor Gavin Newsom outlined the State's next step in the COVID-19 pandemic recovery, moving beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

On June 15, California will fully open its economy if two criteria are met:

- If vaccine supply is sufficient for Californians 16 years and older who wish to be inoculated; and
- If hospitalization rates are stable and low

Everyday activities will be allowed, and businesses can open with common-sense risk reduction measures, including encouraging all Californians to get vaccinated and mandating masking, to prevent illness and promote health. The State will continue contact tracing and testing to detect cases early and contain spread of the virus. The entire State will move into this new phase as a whole. The State will monitor hospitalization rates, vaccine access and vaccine efficacy against variants, with the option to revisit the June 15 date if needed.

State Updates Blueprint to Allow Additional Activities with Modifications to Reduce Risk

With vaccination rates increasing and the State's COVID-19 test positivity rate near a record low, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released updates to the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy reopening framework. Additional activities are allowed to resume with modifications to reduce risk under the updated blueprint. The updates include gatherings, private events or meetings such as receptions or conferences, and indoor seated live events and performances. Effective April 15, updates to the Orange Tier (current status of Santa Clara County) include:

- Outdoor gathering size increases to 50 people
- Indoor gatherings strongly discouraged, will be allowed with modifications (no food/drink except when following the standards in the guidance)
- Outdoor private events size increases to 100 people or 300 if all guests are tested or show proof of full vaccination
- Indoor private events will be allowed if all guests are tested or show proof of full vaccination: maximum 150 people
- Indoor seated live events and performances at small venues: Maximum 15% or 200 people; 35% if all guests are tested or show proof of full vaccination
- Indoor seated live events and performances at large venues: Maximum 10% or 2000 people; 35% if all guests are tested or show proof of full vaccination

View the [updated sector chart](#) to see which activities and businesses are allowed in each tier.

Governor Newsom announced that All K-12 schools in California are Expected to be Open in the Fall

Governor Newsom stated that All K-12 California schools should be open in the fall for full-time, five-days-a-week, in-person instruction under the updated guidelines. He shared that he is considering additional measures, as necessary, to make sure that schoolchildren are not left behind on June 15, when the State has scheduled an extensive [economic reopening](#). The Governor also said that campuses at all levels, including higher education, should be open. He added this is consistent with guidelines to [reopen classrooms](#), which have included financial incentives and accelerated vaccinations for school employees.

County

Santa Clara County Expands Vaccine Eligibility to 16 and Up

Santa Clara County opened up vaccinations to everyone eligible to get one. Starting at midnight on April 8, the County made hundreds of thousands of South Bay residents eligible to sign up to get vaccinated by allowing those age 16 and up to schedule [vaccine appointments](#). People age 16 and up can get the Pfizer vaccine while the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are for people 18 and older. Santa Clara County has vaccinated more than 41 percent of its eligible residents, or over 666,600 people with

at least one dose. While the vaccine supply is expected to be expanded, individuals may need to wait for an appointment.

Santa Clara County Commercial Eviction Moratorium Extended

The Santa Clara County commercial eviction moratorium has been extended through June 30, 2021. Small business tenants in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County have up to 6 months after the moratorium expires or terminates to repay at least 50% of the past-due rent, and up to 12 months after the moratorium expires or terminates to repay in full the past-due rent. Small business representatives can view this [page](#) for eligibility requirements, necessary paperwork to show substantial loss of income or out-of-pocket for medical expenses due to COVID-19, and more information including [FAQ's](#).

Santa Clara County COVID-19 Clinics Try to Overcome Vaccine Shortage to Reach Hard-Hit Residents

California is expecting about 90 percent fewer Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses next week, which will affect those trying to sign up for a first dose in Santa Clara County. County officials confirmed the receipt of 9,000 Johnson & Johnson doses in its last shipment and is expected to get just 3,000 next week.

New 'Double Mutant' COVID-19 Strain Identified in Santa Clara County

Amid a recent [increase](#) in COVID-19 variant cases in Santa Clara County, researchers at the Stanford Clinical Virology Lab discovered another [new variant](#) in the County, called the "double mutant." It was first reported in India and is now the first confirmed case in California. The name "double mutant" means that two of its mutations have already been identified in the other strains, one in the California variant and another in both the Brazil and South Africa variants. Every [variant](#) of concern has now been detected in Santa Clara County, including the B.1.1.7 strain originally discovered in the United Kingdom, B.1.351 in South Africa, P.1 in Brazil, B.1.525 and B.1.52 in New York and L452R, now known as B.1.427 and B.1.429, in California. Higher transmissibility and reduced immune response against the variant are concerning. Additionally, continued transmission of these variants could lead to a surge in cases, especially because not everyone has been fully vaccinated yet.

City of Milpitas

Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

On Monday, April 5, the County of Santa Clara launched its mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinic with the support of public safety agencies including the Milpitas Fire Department. First responders from agencies throughout the County have been supporting the County's vaccination efforts since late December 2020 by staffing the clinic with personnel to support clinic operations and to serve as vaccine injectors. In partnership with Santa Clara County Public Health Department, the mobile vaccination clinic operation is another critical step towards vaccinating our most vulnerable residents who need 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.

City Staff continue to collaborate with the County to determine locations where the vaccinations will occur through receiving requests by phone from residents who meet the Medicare criteria, provide support by filling out the intake form on behalf of the community member and sending the information to the County via e-mail for scheduling. For more information about COVID-19 vaccine eligibility and

appointment scheduling, visit www.sccfreevax.org.

Milpitas Sports Center and Barbara Lee Senior Center

The Milpitas Sports Center and Milpitas Senior Center gyms re-opened with restrictions on Monday, 4/12. Capacity is limited, and workout appointment times must be reserved in advance. Gym equipment is cleaned between appointment slots. Links are included below for more information and to make reservations:

Milpitas Sports Center Fitness Room: <http://ow.ly/pXpj50Ek8HM>

Barbara Lee Senior Center Fitness Room: <http://ow.ly/CCN350Ek8HN>

After the Bell at the Park

The City will offer its popular After the Bell (ATB) afterschool childcare program for ages 7-12, in an outdoor format at park sites, beginning April 19 and continuing to the end of the Milpitas Unified School District School Year. The program will be offered at Pinewood Park and Creighton Park. ATB @ the Park will run daily on school days 3-5:30 p.m. Cost is \$247.50 per child for residents. Financial Aid for low-income residents is available through the Milpitas Assistance Program. Social distancing guidelines are in effect, and capacity is limited to 14 children per pod. Register online: <https://bit.ly/3a8qqKK>

Outdoor Events

Milpitas Recreation and Community Services will begin hosting outdoor movie events in early summer and outdoor performances at Milpitas Parks in mid to late summer. Capacity will be limited, and advance registration will be required. More information will be available in the Summer Activity Guide, scheduled to be released in late April.

Milpitas Youth Force Teams Complete 2021 Program

The 2021 Milpitas Youth Force teams just concluded 8 weeks of virtual collaboration to help four Milpitas businesses solve real-world problems. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Milpitas Youth Force program was restructured to provide students a safe, work-at-home experience collaborating in a team with other teens to help solve a real-life work challenge that a Milpitas employer is facing. The businesses were Element by Westin hotel, opening in Milpitas in June; coffee distributor and educator Global Aroma; video production company C-Sharp, and the Milpitas Recreation and Community Services Department.

Small Business Town Hall: April 15 at 3:30pm

In partnership with the US Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Centers, and regional Chambers of Commerce, Assemblymember Alex Lee and Congressman Ro Khanna are holding a Small Business Town Hall to help small businesses understand the financial assistance programs currently available to them. Please click [here](#) to register.

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's 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.