

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: August 6, 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 #43

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 June 18 provided information on the safe reopening of California as well as the State's new [public health order](#). The order had limited restrictions, only related to masking and mega-events, as well as settings serving children and youth. Additionally, revisions to the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards](#) that took effect on June 17 were shared.

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

New Public Health Order

On July 26, 2021, the California Department of Public Health announced the release of a new State Public Health Order. The new order offers guidance about vaccination requirements for all state workers and workers in health care and high-risk congregate settings to show proof of full vaccination or be tested at least once per week and encourage all local government and other employers to adopt a similar protocol. This Order will take effect on August 9, 2021, at 12:01 am. Facilities must be in full compliance with the Order by August 23, 2021. For an extensive list of all the different work settings that this new order pertains to, as well as detailed information about the types of proof of vaccinations that are accepted, please click on the following link: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Unvaccinated-Workers-In-High-Risk-Settings.aspx>

California Employers Implement Vaccine and Testing Measures for Employees

Some of California's largest employers (both private businesses and local governments) have followed Governor Newsom's lead in implementing vaccine and testing measures for employees. After California

implemented new vaccine verification and testing requirements for state and health care workers, employers such as City of Los Angeles, City of San Francisco, Google, Netflix, Facebook, Uber, etc. have implemented similar measures for thousands of employees throughout the state. More information on other employers can be viewed [here](#).

California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Package

On July 12, 2021, Governor Newsom signed a [budget package](#) that included several critical provisions to help small businesses in California stay afloat. The State is promoting policy solutions that will help deliver critical resources to businesses on their road to recovery. These include:

- \$1.5 billion to renew the state's small business grant relief program and provide three additional rounds of grants to small businesses;
- \$50 million for I-Bank lending programs that will leverage federal dollars to help small businesses to expand their enterprises, including the California Rebuilding Fund, which will help business owners access capital for long-term recovery;
- \$50 million one-time for grants to local governments and nonprofits to provide direct relief to eligible microbusinesses; and
- \$35 million for one-time microgrants of up to \$10,000 to seed small business creation, particularly for underserved entrepreneurs facing opportunity gaps.

County

Bay Area Counties Mandate Masks Indoors for Everyone

Seven Bay Area counties — San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Marin and Sonoma — are now mandating that everyone, regardless of vaccination status wear masks indoors as the Delta variant of COVID-19 spreads in the region. The health order went into effect on Tuesday, August 3 at midnight. According to the [Center for Disease Control's Level of Transmission Map](#), Santa Clara is classified as one of the areas with "substantial" transmission. Additionally, new evidence shows that while fully vaccinated individuals are protected against severe disease from the Delta variant, they can transmit it to unvaccinated individuals more easily than other strains of the virus. With the increased circulation of the highly transmissible delta variant, wearing a face covering can help prevent the spread of the disease, but only in addition to other measures such as frequent hand washing, cleaning and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces, and practicing social distancing.

Santa Clara County to Require Vaccination for its Employees

On July 29, Santa Clara County leaders announced that all County employees will be required to get a COVID-19 vaccine. County workers will be required to be vaccinated as a condition of employment with specific exceptions for health or religious issues. The County will require its 22,000 employees to be vaccinated for COVID-19 in an attempt to curb infections driven by unvaccinated individuals.

City of Milpitas

Mandatory Face Covering, COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Update

In line with current safety measures, the City is updating workplace protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

1. The City is requiring **all employees at work and visitors to City facilities to wear face coverings in indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status**. The City is also requiring **all employees to wear face coverings at work in outdoor settings when social distancing is not possible**. N-95 masks will be made available to all employees upon request and in the future, the City may consider requiring unvaccinated employees wear N-95 masks, based on the case rates in the County.
2. The **masking requirement took effect on Thursday, July 29** and will continue until further direction from the City Manager's Office.
3. Staff who are not fully vaccinated or who cannot show proof of vaccination will be subject to **weekly COVID-19 testing**. A start date in August is still being determined.
4. The City **is exploring mandating vaccination** and additional communication on this will be forthcoming; the decision will be contingent on the severity of the spread of the virus and federal, state, and regional guidance.

Exemptions to masks requirements include:

- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- While eating, drinking, or taking medication for brief periods of time.
- Persons who are alone in a private space.

Resuming In-Person Services

City employees who have been primarily teleworking began transitioning back to the workplace on August 2. **The City is currently planning on opening to the public, by appointment only, on August 16, and open to everyone during the last week of August. However, this may change based on the level of transmission in the community.** Visitors to all City facilities will be required to wear masks and will be made available for those who need them. For everyone's safety and protection, sanitizer stations are available throughout City facilities; frequent cleaning and disinfecting of common areas have been scheduled; acrylic shields have been installed in public facing counters and frequently visited areas, and HVAC improvements completed. Lastly, virtual services will continue to be provided and are encouraged at this time.

Hybrid City Council Meetings

On August 5, the City hosted its first hybrid City Council meeting. This approach allowed people to continue attending via video conference or attend in-person. For those who attended in-person, safety protocols have been put in place. The public will be able to continue to livestream the meeting on the City's [Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube channel](#).

Current Status on City Services and Operations

The City is closely monitoring regulatory guidance and is coordinating the reopening of City facilities and services in a phased approach that focuses on ensuring the safety of the public and City employees. 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:** The City hosted its first hybrid public meeting on August 5, 2021. This approach allowed people to continue attending via video conference or attend in-person in August. The public may also livestream the meeting on the City's [Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube channel](#) if not able to attend the in-person or live virtual meeting.
- **City Employees:** All employees who have been teleworking began returning back to on-site work on Monday, August 2; phasing will be managed by each department to ensure compliance with Cal/OSHA requirements. Council meetings, starting August 5, will transition to a hybrid format, with on-site and virtual participation. City facilities will be opened to the public, by appointment only, in mid-August and open to all by late August. 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. Under the [new County Order](#), all businesses and activities must comply with the following Mandatory Health Officer Directives: [Mandatory Directive on Use of Face Coverings](#), [Mandatory Directive For Unvaccinated Personnel](#). For detailed City service descriptions, refer to the latest [Permit Center and Inspection Services Information Flyer](#).
- **Recreation and Community Services:** Community programs, social services, center membership amenities and classes are being held in majority outdoors, with some services currently indoors at capacities previously allowed by State and County's mandates. Additional indoor activities and special event capacities will resume in a measured approach over the next few months. Nutrition services continue through the Senior To-Go Lunch program and Second Harvest Food Bank monthly distribution.
- **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 volunteerpage](#).

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 socialmedia accounts on Facebook, Nextdoor, and Twitter.