

# MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



**DATE:** May 19, 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 #41

**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 April 12 provided information on the State's June 15 reopening criteria as well as Santa Clara County's Expanded Vaccine Eligibility, which included individuals aged 16 and up. Additionally, information about County's commercial eviction moratorium extension through June 30, 2021 was 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

### *\$100 Billion California Comeback Plan*

On May 14, 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom presented his [\\$100 billion California Comeback Plan](#), the largest economic recovery package in California's history. The Plan outlines comprehensive strategies and major investments in key areas so that California can come roaring back from the pandemic. The Plan provides immediate relief to two-thirds of Californians with stimulus checks and significant support for small business. It also proposes major new initiatives and investments to confront: homelessness and housing affordability; disparities in education; aging infrastructure; and wildfires and climate change.

### *State Announces Relief Program for California Small Businesses*

On May 13, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled another component of his \$100 billion California Comeback Plan: making investments in [small business relief](#). The Plan expands the State's COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant program to a total of \$4 billion. That's in addition to Governor Newsom's \$6.2 billion tax cut for those businesses hit hardest by the pandemic.

### *California to Begin Following the New CDC Indoor Mask Guidelines Starting June 15*

On May 17, 2021, California health officials announced that the State would begin following the Centers for Disease Control's eased mask guidelines for some indoor settings starting June 15. This date aligns with the State's plan to reopen California's economy on June 15 and allows more time for more Californians to get fully vaccinated. State health officials said local governments, health departments and private businesses could choose to continue implementing stricter mask guidelines.

### County

#### *Santa Clara County Moves to Yellow Tier for COVID-19 Reopening*

On May 18, 2021, County officials announced that Santa Clara County has made excellent progress in the fight against COVID-19. Case rates have declined to some of their lowest levels at any point in the pandemic, and test positivity rates have hit an all-time low. The county's vaccination rates are also among the very highest in the nation, as more than 75% of county residents 16 and older have received at least one dose of vaccine. On May 19, the county will enter the least restrictive "Yellow Tier" under the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy (<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>). Advancing into the yellow tier allows restaurants, movie theaters, libraries, offices, churches, family entertainment centers, gyms and fitness studios to expand capacity indoors. Indoor bars, breweries and wineries can now open at 25% capacity, up to 100 people. Outdoor conventions, meetings and receptions can resume with up to 200 people, and up to 400 people if all attendees provide proof of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test.

County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody announced that she would be lifting most of the local rules currently in place, including requirements that businesses maximize the number of staff who are teleworking, replacing prior rules with a limited local health order. The new order will require continued reporting of COVID-19 cases in workplaces and schools and will require employers to determine which staff are fully vaccinated in advance of changes to State masking and social distancing requirements for fully vaccinated people in the workplace.

#### *COVID-19 Vaccine is Now Available for All County Residents Age 12 and Older, No Appointments Needed*

County officials urge all residents ages 12 and up to take advantage of the many free vaccination sites. There are expanded hours on evenings and weekends at some County-operated sites, and residents can also opt to get vaccinated at clinics in CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Walmart, Costco, Safeway and Lucky.

For the latest information about vaccines and appointments, visit [sccfreevax.org](https://sccfreevax.org).

### City of Milpitas

#### *Milpitas Youth COVID-19 Vaccination Site*

The City is coordinating a County hosted, Milpitas Youth COVID vaccination site, for residents ages 12 –17 years old at the Milpitas Sports Center on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 7:30pm. The City is also closely working with the Milpitas Unified School District on targeted outreach to student families, so that they can take advantage of this great opportunity in their own city. The informational campaign for this youth vaccination site will be released to the public in several languages later this week.

### *COVID-19 Testing at the Milpitas Sports Center and Community Center*

The City continues to host Santa Clara County's free COVID testing at the Milpitas Sports Center and Community Centers every week. Schedule your appointment today for either site:

Milpitas Community Center: <https://covid19.sccgov.org/events/optumserve-milpitas-community-center>

Milpitas Sports Center: <http://ow.ly/aCSy30rDCOx>

### *Recreation and Community Services*

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

#### Outdoor Events and Gatherings

City sponsored outdoor events will have additional capacity allowances of up to 67% of total outdoor capacity. Picnic rental capacities can be increased to up to 100 people.

#### 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 50% capacity in late May. 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.

#### Community Nutrition

The Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) food distribution site continues to successfully provide food to over 1,000 households every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at Russell Middle School parking lot. Staff has successfully extended the partnership between SHFB, MUSD and the City through the Summer.

### *Workforce Recovery Program*

The City of Milpitas Office of Economic Development launched its COVID-19 Workforce Recovery Program. The goal of this program is to provide free customized workforce training workshops, assessments, career navigation and career counseling to Milpitas residents and Milpitas-based businesses impacted by COVID-19. In order to best support our community, please take a few minutes to participate in a [survey](#), so we can determine which trainings are most needed in the community. Actual trainings and workshops are anticipated to begin in late Fall to early Winter of 2021. The survey closes on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 11:59 PM. To learn more about this free program, please visit: [www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/C19Workforce](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/C19Workforce).

### *COVID-Safe at Work (C-SAW) Committee*

The City's employee C-SAW Committee has been meeting to discuss the many facets of COVID-19 and has been instrumental in drafting the City's Telework Policy, addressing employee training, and bringing to the forefront safety considerations for City employees.

The C-SAW Committee's most recent contribution includes work on an employee survey, currently underway, to gauge employee sentiment on returning to work, and to understand the concerns and needs going forward as we work towards returning to the workplace. Employee responses to the survey are due May 27<sup>th</sup> and will help shape the City's plan to re-open. We anticipate being able to bring this plan to Council in June.

## **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, center membership amenities and classes are being held in majority outdoors, with some youth cohorts, fitness rooms, and social services appointments being held indoors as allowed by State and County's mandates. Nutrition services continue through the Senior To-Go Lunch program and Second Harvest Food Bank monthly distribution. The City will resume or increase allowable activities with the County's move to the Yellow Tier. Any programs or services that can be held indoors will adhere to the mandated capacities including private rentals.
- **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.