

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: June 18, 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 #42

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 May 19 provided information on Governor Newsom's \$100 billion California Comeback Plan, which included funding for a small business relief program as well as Santa Clara County's move to the least restrictive "Yellow Tier" under the State's 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 Safely Reopens

On June 15, 2021, the Governor terminated the executive orders that put into place the Stay Home Order and the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The vast majority of executive actions put in place since March 2020 have also been phased out.

The new [public health order](#) supersedes all prior health orders. The order has limited restrictions, only related to masking and mega-events, as well as settings serving children and youth pending an expected update to the K-12 school guidance by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

State Announces Plans to Introduce a Vaccine Verification System

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom announced that the State will be launching an electronic system that will allow businesses to confirm that their customers have received their shots. The system would replace the need to carry around vaccine cards, which are 3-by-4-inch pieces of cardstock that can easily be lost or damaged, and do not fit in traditional wallets. Officials say signing up for the program

would be voluntary, and the State is not requiring individuals to show proof of vaccination to engage in activities. But some employers and businesses may require verification for workers and patrons.

Revised Cal/OSHA Emergency Standards Effective June 17

Revisions to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards took effect on June 17 with several major changes for California employers, which are as follows:

- Make COVID-19 testing available at no cost during paid time to employees who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and had a close contact in the workplace or are showing symptoms of the illness.
- Inform employees that unvaccinated workers have a right to request and receive a respirator, such as an N95, for their voluntary use.
- Require physical distancing only for unvaccinated employees and during COVID-19 outbreaks and other specific circumstances.
- As before, an individual will be considered fully vaccinated if at least 14 days have passed since the individual received a single-dose vaccine or the second in a two-dose vaccine. However, now the employer must collect and have documentation of the employee's vaccination.

One temporary standard in place since Nov. 30, 2020, did not change: Employers must continue to "provide and ensure use of eye protection and respiratory protection in compliance with section 5144 when employees are exposed to procedures that may aerosolize potentially infectious material such as saliva or respiratory tract fluids."

The revised standards no longer require cleanable solid partitions and include updated definitions of "close contact" and "face covering" and "fully vaccinated." For example, a face covering is not a scarf, bandana, turtleneck, collar, ski mask, balaclava or any single-layer fabric. A face covering is defined specifically as a surgical or medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily or a tightly woven fabric or nonwoven material of at least two layers.

The revised standards align with the newest guidance from the CDPH and CDC and are more stringent than the new federal OSHA standards. Visit the [Cal/OSHA and Statewide Industry Guidance on COVID-19](#) page and the State's [Safer At Work COVID-19 Employer Portal](#) for more information.

County

Santa Clara County and 49ers Announce Winding Down of Vaccination Site

The San Francisco 49ers and the County of Santa Clara have announced that the Levi's® Stadium mass vaccination site will conclude COVID-19 vaccination operations on June 24, 2021. The decision comes amidst an optimistic COVID-19 outlook in the County with cases slowing to less than 2 per day for every 100,000 people, and almost 80 percent of County residents age 12 and older having received at least one dose of vaccine.

County Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Raffles

The County of Santa Clara, the SAP Center, the Golden State Warriors and the City of San José are collaborating to raffle off more than 100 tickets to upcoming events and other prizes to anyone who gets a COVID-19 vaccine at select County-run vaccination sites in the next few weeks. Tickets to the Golden State Warriors, Harry Styles, the Weeknd, Bad Bunny, Justin Bieber and other artists will be given away. Different prizes will be raffled off every week. Each Wednesday, 8 to 10 winners will be announced.

City of Milpitas

Pandemic Response Activities Updated to Operate at Stage 3

In light of the termination of the Stay Home Order and the Blueprint for a Safer Economy on June 15, 2021, the City of Milpitas will move to operate at Stage 3 (Medium Response) of the Pandemic Management Plan. Operating at Stage 3 translates to the Office of Emergency Management staffing the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) virtually to continue enhanced monitoring, and coordination with the County, who is the lead in Public Health operations. Additionally, the City's Pandemic Management Team will keep working to prepare for continuity of City operations and provide information and take actions that will help reduce the potential risks.

The City's response will enable staff to fulfill the four priorities of the 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.

The aforementioned priorities will guide the response to the continuing threat posed by COVID-19 because the health of employees, residents, and businesses remains the highest priority for the City of Milpitas. The City's shift to Stage 3 is aligned with recent actions by CDPH, Cal OSHA and the Governor.

Recreation Programs

Following CDC, State and County public health guidelines and/or orders, as applicable, the department will be taking a measured roll out approach with opening recreational facilities to residents. Programs that were capacity restricted under the pre-June 15th mandates, will begin operating without capacity restrictions in the coming weeks, allowing more residents to enjoy great services this summer. Other programs and services will be gradually offered in the coming weeks. And, keeping in line with applicable guidelines and/or orders, masking will continue to be required when indoors, except for children 2 and under and those with medical conditions preventing them from doing so. Some key program and event change areas are:

Milpitas Sports Center:

- No more reservations required for lap swim, water exercise or fitness room use.

- Capacity limits in the fitness room and pools will be lifted starting Monday, June 21.
- Reduced hours at the center are maintained to allow for continued COVID testing and vaccinations. Regular hours will be reinstated in alignment with the City's Return to the Workplace plan implementation.
- Additional indoor drop-in sports and fitness classes (i.e. Yoga will be added back into the schedule).

Senior Center:

- Due to significantly increased senior lunch program participants, to-go lunches will continue through the summer. A hybrid lunch service model is being developed and anticipated to be launched in early fall.
- Capacity limits in the fitness room will be lifted starting Monday, June 21.
- Reduced hours at the center are maintained. Regular hours will be reinstated in alignment with the City's Return to the Workplace plan implementation.

Special Events:

- Movies in the Park & Performances in the Park
 - o Those who had already reserved family pod space will be offered seating in a premiere seating section.
 - o Open seating will be allowed for the community

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:** All public meetings have been on Zoom since March 2020, with live audio public comments beginning with the October 6, 2020 City Council meeting. The City is working towards a hybrid approach to public meetings that will allow people to continue attending via videoconference or attend in-person beginning August. The public may also livestream the meeting on the City's [Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube channel](#) if not able to attend the live virtual meeting.
- **City Employees:** All employees who have been teleworking begin 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 in August, 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/early September. 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 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.