

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: October 22, 2020
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 #27

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 October 16 discussed updates on the County's move into the State of California's Moderate (Orange Tier 3) and the Public Health Officer's new Revised Risk Reduction Order going into effect on October 14. Information about the City's moderate rate of infection and the importance of community messaging on wearing face coverings, regular testing and continued adherence to social distancing guidelines (especially with the upcoming Halloween season) were also highlighted.

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

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan

On October 16, the California Department of Public Health submitted a COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). From the start of the pandemic, data and science have guided the State's response to COVID-19. Governor Gavin Newsom announced California has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Defense for advanced planning on vaccine distribution.

California's planning process for the eventual distribution and administration of a COVID-19 vaccine is guided by the overarching principles of ensuring the COVID-19 vaccine meets safety requirements and ensuring that the vaccine is distributed and administered equitably.

California will leverage its well-established existing immunization framework and emergency response infrastructure to coordinate efforts between state, local, and territorial authorities and administer the

vaccine. The state is building on lessons learned from previous vaccination campaigns and seasonal influenza efforts to prepare and plan for the receipt and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine and its implementation across the state.

California's COVID-19 vaccination plan will be implemented in several phases: Pre-vaccine; limited doses available; larger number of doses available; and sufficient supply of doses for entire population.

Planning for vaccine distribution consists of setting up vaccination clinics, vaccine storage, handling, administration and documentation, [according to the CDC](#). Distribution within “large-scale facilities” such as stadiums and arenas would require more planning.

Governor Newsom said pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna are anticipating vaccine releases in November and December, but the number of vaccines will be limited and directed to vulnerable populations and first responders.

Scientific Safety Review Workgroup

Governor Gavin Newsom named a group of nationally acclaimed California physician scientists with expertise in immunization and public health to the state's [COVID-19 Scientific Safety Review Workgroup](#) that will independently review the safety and efficacy of any vaccine that receives FDA approval for distribution.

- Many vaccine candidates are in clinical trials currently and California is putting a system in place for the distribution and administration of vaccine as supply becomes available.
- In addition to the Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, which includes many current and prior members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a Drafting Guidelines Workgroup comprised of immunization, public health, ethicists, health care and academic experts will develop California-specific guidance for the prioritization and allocation of vaccines when supplies are limited.
- A Community Advisory Vaccine Committee will provide input and feedback to the planning efforts and solve barriers of equitable vaccine implementation and decision.

Fifth Round of Homekey Funding

On October 16, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the release of \$30.7 million in the fifth round of awards for [Homekey](#), California's innovative, first-in-the-nation program to purchase and rehabilitate housing – including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties – and convert them into permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

The state has now provided all available Homekey funding to local jurisdictions, ahead of schedule. To date, more than \$627 million has been awarded to 45 applicants and 71 projects totaling 4,646 units. The Administration is working with the Legislature to make an [additional \\$200 million](#) in Coronavirus Relief Funding available for Homekey.

County

Small Business Loan Program

At the October 20 Board of Supervisors meeting, Santa Clara County Supervisors approved a proposal to consider a \$100 million small business loan program to help businesses throughout the county that

have been economically impacted by COVID-19 and shelter-in-place orders. County leadership proposed partnerships with community-based organizations and qualified professionals to make the program possible.

County staff must return with a list of options on November 18 to outline how the County will administer the program and present a report of issues to be addressed:

Among the issues to be addressed are the following:

- Total target for the loan fund (we are hopeful that \$100 million is practicable);
- Source of funds;
- Initial thoughts as to eligibility criteria;
- The potential range of loan amounts;
- How and by whom the loans will be underwritten and serviced; and
- Issues, if any, with legal prohibitions on “gift of public funds” and/or constitutional prohibitions on public banking.

City of Milpitas

Mobile Testing

The City’s COVID-19 mobile testing unit has resumed services and will continue to focus on vulnerable populations at different locations such as the Milpitas Sports Center and various City parks. The Milpitas community is encouraged to take safety measures and prevent the spread of infection by scheduling an appointment via the Milpitas Recreation and Community Services [online portal](#).

Power Safety Power Shutoff Event – Cancelled for October 22, 2020

Due to anticipated extreme Fire Weather conditions, a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event to prevent wildfires was cancelled on Thursday (10/22) as the wind subsided. A community resource center available at the Crosspoint Church of Silicon Valley located at 658 Gibraltar Ct. in Milpitas has been closed. PG&E will notify affected households via phone, text, and email, 24 hours before a projected shutoff and just prior to shutting off power. Fall weather often produce offshore winds that produce high fire danger.

Updated Protocols for Businesses Due by October 28

With the [Revised Risk Reduction Order](#), which took effect on effective October 14, the County has issued a reminder that all businesses must complete, submit and implement the Revised Social Distancing Protocols by October 28, 2020. Businesses must do so even if they have already completed a Social Distancing Protocol under a prior Health Officer Order. Businesses may not operate after October 28 without first submitting a Revised Social Distancing Protocol. For more information, visit covid19prepared.org or the [County’s COVID-19 FAQ page](#).

Stadiums and Theme Parks Remain Closed

Fans of the San Jose Earthquakes, San Francisco 49ers and other teams that play in Santa Clara County won’t be allowed to see games at a stadium anytime soon. During a [virtual news briefing](#) on October 20, California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly shared that large-scale parks with capacity of more than 15,000 people, such as California’s Great America in Santa Clara, are high-risk settings and cannot open until the counties they are located in hit the lowest-risk yellow reopening tier. Even then, capacity will be limited to 25%. The State CDPH has allowed 20% capacity but SCCDPH officials are not allowing audiences to convene for any local sporting events.

Business Outreach

With the recent approval of the Santa Clara County Supervisors proposal to consider a \$100 million small business loan program, City staff will continue to stay up to date with program developments. When more information is made available, City outreach to Milpitas businesses will be implemented. The outreach will be designed to reach those who have been economically impacted by COVID-19 and shelter-in-place orders, so they can be educated about taking advantage of the program.

COVID-19 Infection Safety Measures

As the summer draws to a close, a resurgence in coronavirus cases across the nation has caused significant alarm. In contrast, preliminary data for positive Covid-19 cases in Santa Clara County over the last seven days show that the daily rate of new infections has stayed about the same since the county moved into the state's Orange tier about a week ago. With the shift to the new tier, modified business operations have been adopted by various departments such as – limited City recreation facility hours and access, stringent Police Department protocols for staff and visitors to staggered shifts for Public Works employees in an effort to stay in compliance with the order while continuing to provide essential services. Messaging regarding the importance of wearing face coverings, regular testing and social distancing guidelines compliance continue to be shared on the City website and social media channels.

Indoor Gatherings

Indoor Gatherings that include more than 3 households are prohibited by the [California Department of Public Health Orders](#) as updated on October 9, 2020 and is more restrictive than Santa Clara County Public Health Order. The most restrictive Order takes precedence when in contrast to local Orders. A gathering includes everyone present, including hosts and guests. By spending time with the same people, risk of transmission is reduced. The host is requested to collect names of all attendees and contact information in case contact tracing is needed later. Participating in multiple gatherings with different households or groups is strongly discouraged.

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. 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. This was based on requests from the Council and community. The majority of Board, Commission, and Subcommittee meetings are transitioning to this new format to engage live public participation. 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. City staff has developed a self-check protocol that enables the safety of all employees. The protocols apply to all employees who are regularly coming to work to perform an essential service and may interact with the community or with other employees. Each City Department is responsible to coordinate the process for their respective employees. The self-check protocols are based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and will be updated according to any changes to CDC guidance.
- **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 gatherings remain cancelled until further notice, including private rentals in City facilities and park picnic areas. The Senior Center remains closed for programming. The 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.