

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: December 1, 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 #30

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 November 17 featured the State of California's transition to the most restrictive Purple Tier. Under the Purple Tier, the following businesses and activities are prohibited from operating indoors: dining, gatherings (including movie showings, political events, weddings, funerals, and places of worship), gyms and fitness facilities, family entertainment centers, cardrooms, museums, zoos, and aquariums. The County's new [Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations](#) describe the additional capacity limitations for businesses, entities, and activities. Under a State travel advisory, Californians are also being encouraged to stay home and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries.

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

Limited Stay at Home Order

With the unprecedented rate of rise in increase in COVID-19 cases across California, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has taken immediate action to prevent the spread of the virus. The State Public Health Officer issued a Limited Stay at Home order, effective in counties under Tier One (Purple) of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, requiring that all gatherings with members of other households and all activities conducted outside the residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation with members of other households cease between 10:00pm PST and 5:00am PST on November 21, except for those activities associated with the operation, maintenance, or usage of critical infrastructure or required by law.

Stricter Prevention Measures

The number of Californians hospitalized with COVID-19 has more than doubled in the past two weeks, and 15 counties reported their highest hospitalization counts of the pandemic. If COVID-19 continues to spread at this rate, it could quickly overwhelm the State's health care system and lead to catastrophic outcomes.

Everyone is encouraged to follow strict prevention measures that include the following: staying home except for essential needs/activities and following local and state public health guidelines when visiting businesses that are open, staying close to home, [avoiding non-essential travel](#), and practicing [self-quarantine](#) for 14 days after arrival and [wearing a cloth face mask when out in public](#). For more information, visit the updated [California Department of Public Health](#) mandatory guidelines.

Small Business and Employer Assistance

Governor Gavin Newsom announced that California will provide temporary tax relief for eligible businesses impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. The temporary tax relief entails an income tax extension and extends the availability of existing interest and penalty-free payment agreements to companies. The total tax relief, if fully utilized, is estimated to have billions of dollars in impact. Additionally, the State and federal government are providing broad assistance to small businesses and employers impacted by COVID-19. This includes:

- [Tax relief](#), including deferrals and credits
- Providing capital to the [California Rebuilding Fund](#) to support small business loans
- \$50 million in state funding for the [Small Business Disaster Relief Loan Guarantee Program](#) and \$50 million for the [Small Business Loan Guarantee Program](#) via iBank to provide loans to underserved small businesses
- [Small Business Debt Relief](#) for existing Small Business Administration (SBA) borrowers
- Federal small business stimulus programs like Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans
- State-supported [small business centers](#) that provide direct assistance from a local advisor
- Authorization for local governments to halt [evictions](#) for commercial renters

Social Innovation Impact Report

On November 28, Governor Gavin Newsom issued the state's first-ever Social Innovation Impact Report highlighting innovative public-private-partnerships that have contributed \$3.9 billion toward the State's housing efforts, COVID-19 response and more. As part of the state's leading-edge social innovation work, California engaged 196 corporate and philanthropic partners and 748 community-based organizations, benefitting each of the state's 58 counties.

When the federal government issued stimulus checks of up to \$1,200 to each American, undocumented Americans who are disproportionately performing essential jobs throughout the COVID-19 crisis were left out. California farmers were also faced with millions of pounds of food they could not sell, while many were experiencing unprecedented hunger due to the economic downturn and widespread job losses. Moreover, the Governor's commitment to addressing homelessness took on a new urgency amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with the virus posing particular danger to the unsheltered. A total of \$186,240,654 was allocated for COVID-19 response. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

County

Updated Mandatory Directives

The number of Santa Clara County residents contracting COVID-19 and the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 continues to rise significantly, reaching record levels. To reduce the likelihood of a surge in hospitalizations that would exceed the capacity of hospitals in the county, the Health Officer announced several changes to the Mandatory Directives that accompany the Public Health Officer's Risk Reduction Order. The changes include requiring that certain sectors modify operations to increase safety. Further, certain higher risk activities will be prohibited.

These revised and new Mandatory Directives took effect on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. and will remain in effect until at least December 21, 2020 at 5:00 a.m. unless extended. Key changes being made to the Mandatory Directives can be found [here](#).

Voluntary Self-Quarantine and Testing Post-Travel

Santa Clara County officials request that anyone who traveled further than 150 miles for the Thanksgiving holiday self-quarantine for 14 days upon their return home and to get tested for COVID-19 around day seven after returning. Taking this precaution is encouraged to help slow the spread of COVID-19, which is more widespread in Santa Clara County than at any time during the pandemic. Extra precautions need to be taken to keep hospital beds available and ready. More information can be found [here](#).

Business Engagement Landing Page

The County of Santa Clara has created a business engagement landing page on its COVID-19 website with valuable resources and information. Information can be found [here](#) or by calling the new COVID-19 Business Call Center at (408) 961-5500.

City of Milpitas

Senior Nutrition

To date, the City has served over 15,000 meals since March and participation numbers continue to increase. To ensure the site is safely within the required capacity limitations, seniors signing up for lunch will receive a pick-up window reservation time starting Tuesday, December 1. This strategy will further keep Milpitas seniors as safe as possible while providing them warm and healthy meals.

Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) Distribution

The SHFB Food Distribution at the Milpitas High School is continuing to expand its outreach. The November 21st distribution serviced 940 households, which translates to approximately 2,300 boxes of food. This distribution is a collaborative effort between the City, SHFB and the Milpitas Unified School District.

Mental Health Support

City staff are presenting, in conjunction with Milpitas HOPE and the SCC Behavioral Health, additional COVID-19 Mental Health Town Halls for the Milpitas Community. Upcoming events are:

- Milpitas HOPE'S Managing Stress and Anxiety During COVID 19 (in Vietnamese), December 9 @ 6.30 PM
- Milpitas HOPE'S All Alone for Holidays (in English), December 16 @ 6.30PM

Business Community COVID-19 Webinar

On December 9 from 9:30am to 10:30am, the City will be hosting a webinar to help guide the Milpitas business community through the pandemic. Several presentations by City staff will cover important topics such as food delivery cap and access to capital, business license renewal and outdoor dining, Winterization and capacity limitation guidelines, Milpitas Youth Force program, MyMilpitas app, etc. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://bit.ly/2J4QIZD>

Updated Requirements for Businesses

Under the Revised Risk Reduction Order, all businesses must complete and submit a Revised Social Distancing Protocol for any facility via the [County's website](#). The previous Social Distancing Protocols submitted prior to October 11 are no longer valid. Additionally, all businesses must continue to require workers to do their jobs from home when possible. Organizations are also required to report to the State's Health Department (within 4 hours) if any of their employees test positive for COVID-19 as well as inform the rest of the workforce. Finally, all businesses must comply with the County's capacity limitations as established in the [Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations](#).

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 have transitioned 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. With the evolving mandatory directives from the State and County, regular communications to employees are provided to ensure adherence to the latest order. City staff has also developed a self-check protocol that enables the safety of all employees. 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. With the new guideline from the County, additional questions about travel beyond 150 miles for non-essential work and inquiring about self-quarantine have been added. 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, State and County and will be updated accordingly.

- **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:** All 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.