

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: December 6, 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 #31

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 December 1 provided information on the State's Limited Stay at Home Order, effective in counties under the Purple Tier. To reduce the likelihood of a surge in hospitalizations that would exceed the capacity of hospitals in the county, the Health Officer also announced several changes to the Mandatory Directives that accompany the Public Health Officer's Risk Reduction Order.

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

Regional Stay at Home Order

Upon assessment of the recent, unprecedented rise in the rate of increase in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and test positivity rates across California, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has taken immediate action to prevent the spread of the virus. Current projections show that without additional intervention to slow the spread of COVID-19, the number of available adult Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in the State of California will be at capacity in mid-December.

The [Regional Stay Home Order](#), went into effect on December 3, 2020, in regions with less than 15% ICU availability. It prohibits private gatherings of any size, closes sector operations except for critical infrastructure and retail, and requires 100% masking and physical distancing in all others. The order will remain in effect for at least 3 weeks and, after that period, will be lifted when a region's projected ICU capacity meets or exceeds 15%. This will be assessed on a weekly basis after the initial 3-week period. [Learn more about this order.](#)

County

Regional Stay at Home Order in Effect – Ahead of State’s Schedule

Instead of waiting until Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed availability reaches critical levels and delaying closures that are inevitable, the Health Officers for the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and Santa Clara as well as the City of Berkeley jointly announced the immediate implementation of the State’s Regional Stay at Home Order. Santa Clara County will implement the order on Sunday, December 6 at 10pm through January 4, 2021.

San Francisco Health Officer Dr. Tomás Aragon shared that “It takes several weeks for new restrictions to slow rising hospitalizations and waiting until only 15 percent of a region’s ICU beds are available is just too late”. Santa Clara County dropped below 15% ICU capacity today, December 4. County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody mentioned that “We understand that the closures under the State order will have a profound impact on our local businesses. However, if we act quickly, we can both save lives and reduce the amount of time these restrictions have to stay in place, allowing businesses and activities to reopen sooner.”

Under the Stay at Home Order, restrictions include the following:

- capacity limits of 20% for retail including mandatory masking and metering measures
- restaurants are not allowed to provide outdoor dining services and can only do take-out and delivery
- indoor and outdoor playgrounds, indoor recreational facilities, hair salons and barbershops, personal care services, museums, zoos and aquariums, movie theaters, wineries, bars, breweries and distilleries, family entertainment centers, cardrooms and satellite wagering, live audience sports and amusement parks must close
- hotels and rental can only allow essential travel and quarantine clients
- sports will continue with more restrictive directives

All restrictions are intended to mirror the State Blueprint Regional Orders. Santa Clara County will not amend Pro, Collegiate and Youth Sports restrictions and the 150-mile travel restriction requiring a 14-day quarantine recently implemented. For more information, please visit: [Stay at Home Except for Essential Needs](#) and [California Department of Public Health](#).

City of Milpitas

Park Playgrounds and Sports Courts

The County’s Regional Stay at Home Order takes effect on Sunday evening. All park playgrounds and basketball sports courts will be temporarily closed from December 4 at 10pm to January 4, 2021, until further notice.

Mobile Testing

The City continues to see a continued increase in mobile testing that has resulted to longer lines. Individuals with negative test results will receive notification by mail, which can take up to two weeks. Appointments are highly encouraged and can be done through visiting: <https://bit.ly/2UNlxxM>.

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. 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.