

# MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



**DATE:** December 30, 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 #33

**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 21 provided an overview on the \$900 billion-dollar coronavirus relief package agreement that the President recently signed into law.

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:**

Congress

### *President Trump Signs COVID-19 Relief Bill*

On December 27, President Donald Trump signed the \$900 billion pandemic relief bill into law that includes enhanced unemployment benefits and direct cash payments. The House voted to increase the second round of federal direct payments to \$2,000 as Democrats support President [Donald Trump's](#) calls to put more money in Americans' pockets. On December 28, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass a bill to increase the [\\$600 stimulus checks to \\$2,000](#), with the bill receiving the needed two-thirds majority of the members [voting](#) to pass in the chamber. However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has blocked the bill at this time.

State

### *Extension of Stay-at-Home Order*

As of December 28, California's record-breaking COVID-19 surge was continuing with tens of thousands of new cases reported and nearly three times as many patients hospitalized as on Thanksgiving a month ago. Over the past week alone, the state has averaged about 37,500 new coronavirus cases per day and about 230 deaths a day from the virus. Several Bay Area hospitals, including Kaiser Permanente, Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose and John Muir Health centers in Concord and Walnut Creek, all

announced in recent days they [were postponing elective surgeries](#) through at least the next week as a rise in COVID-19 patients continues to inundate hospital rooms and ICUs.

California HHS Secretary, Dr. Mark Ghaly announced that the state's stay-at-home order [would be extended](#) in the Southern California and San Joaquin Valley regions beginning December 29. The Greater Sacramento area and the Bay Area could also see the stay-at-home orders extended if intensive care capacity remains critical. Public health experts and infectious disease specialists urge everyone to continue proven mitigation strategies in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The best practices outlined by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention include social distancing, hand washing, wearing a mask whenever in public, staying-at-home and limiting travel (if possible) and being aware of COVID-19 symptoms.

### *Vaccine Prioritization Plan*

As California's public health providers brace for another surge of COVID-19 cases and deaths, state officials are refining the list of who [will be next in line to receive](#) a coveted vaccine over the coming weeks.

The plan will guide the state's rollout of a second round of vaccines following those first reserved for California's 2.4 million health care workers and patients in skilled nursing facilities.

According to Gov. Newsom, next up on the state's vaccine campaign will be Californians 75 years and older as well as essential workers in three categories — education and childcare, emergency services and high-priority essential businesses such as farming and grocery stores. Following those groups will come Californians 65 years and older with underlying health conditions or disabilities, incarcerated individuals, the homeless, and workers in transportation and logistics, the industrial, residential and commercial sector, and critical manufacturing.

### *Federal Partnership with CVS and Walgreens*

On December 28, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that California has opted in to the federal COVID-19 Pharmacy Partnership. At no cost to the state or local government, CVS and Walgreens will administer the Pfizer vaccine to residents and staff in long-term care facilities. CVS and Walgreens will start with nursing homes, which will take an estimated 3-4 weeks, and then vaccinate staff and residents in assisted living, residential care and other long-term care facilities.

The program will enable counties to leverage CVS and Walgreens pharmacy staff to administer the vaccine more broadly with pharmacy staff going directly to care facilities. Skilled Nursing Facilities will receive vaccine from staff from CVS and Walgreens. Approximately 499 nursing homes will be provided vaccine by CVS and 357 by Walgreens. The vaccines will be administered by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and nurses.

### *Testing for New Strain of COVID-19*

In areas with higher rates of infection, such as California, there is a higher possibility for new strains to emerge, according to Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, a professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UCSF. New strains could make it more difficult to curb the spread of the virus and potentially make the vaccine less effective.

California officials are beginning to collect and test samples of the coronavirus from patients across the state to determine whether a new, potentially more contagious strain of COVID-19 discovered in Britain has made its way to California, potentially helping to fuel the state's latest surge. The California Department of Public Health has asked health care providers to collect and submit samples from COVID-19 patients who have recently traveled or have been exposed to people who have traveled to the United Kingdom or Europe, patients who have marked differences in their virus sequencing and patients who have tested positive for the virus twice within 90 days and may have been re-infected.

County

### *Number of COVID-19 Vaccine Doses*

The County of Santa Clara will receive a limited number of vaccine doses. The County Public Health Department will help to apportion these doses to hospitals in the County, based on the directions from the state and federal government.

Company	Doses for County of Santa Clara as Set by State of California
Pfizer-BioNTech	26,325*
Moderna, Inc.	39,300

\*County may be directed to give a small amount to nearby counties that lack the equipment to receive vaccine themselves.

The early doses will be administered to people in the highest risk categories, as set by the state and federal government. Specifically, they will go to healthcare workers in hospitals, and staff and residents in skilled nursing facilities. While the initial amounts will not provide vaccinations for everyone in the priority groups, more doses are expected to become available in the coming weeks and months. The County is prepared to rapidly and equitably distribute all vaccine doses it receives according to a [required vaccine plan submitted to the state](#) earlier this month, and any additional direction we receive from the state and federal governments. Read more about how the State sets [allocated](#) to Santa Clara County.

The County of Santa Clara is in Phase 1a, Tiers 1 and 2 of the [state of California's prioritization tiers](#), offering vaccine to approved healthcare facilities for vaccination of specific healthcare personnel working in the following settings:

Tier 1:

- Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals
- Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Also, in concordance with ACIP, residents in these settings
- Paramedics, EMTs and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis centers

Tier 2:

- Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
- Home health care and in-home supportive services
- Community health workers, including promotoras
- Public health field staff
- Primary Care clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics

Under the state and federal requirements, vaccines will be offered to additional healthcare personnel in Phase 1a as additional vaccine becomes available.

*COVID-19 Community Ambassador Program*

Santa Clara County has taken the lead in the development of a COVID-19 Community Ambassador Program (CAP). Ambassadors play a key role in educating communities about COVID-19 to curb the spread with the ongoing preparation and planning for vaccine distribution. The county will provide regular training and weekly toolkits available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Chinese, and other languages as needed. The link to the December 19 training session can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/SCC-CAP-1219Training>.

In the coming weeks, dates will be announced for:

- The next introductory training for new recruits.
- Supplemental trainings covering additional topics.
- In-language trainings, beginning with Spanish and Vietnamese.

Whether an individual is a leader of a neighborhood association, non-profit or faith-based organization, school or parent-teacher group, service club, chambers of commerce or business, Ambassadors will serve as trusted resources for COVID-19 information.

City of Milpitas

*COVID-19 Testing on January 9*

In partnership with Santa Clara County, the City will be offering COVID-19 Testing on Saturday, January 9 at the Milpitas Community Center 457 E. Calaveras Blvd. Appointment times will be available from 7am - 7pm (no walk-ins). Appointments can be made via: <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>

*Vaccination Prioritization Special Order*

COVID-19 has directly impacted the City's workforce through community exposure and during response to emergencies. With the vaccine currently in limited supply, first responders and healthcare workers are being subject to prioritization based on risk profile and exposure potential.

With the desire to gain access to public safety vaccinations, the City is moving quickly to ensure that any opportunity for vaccination is available to staff. The Milpitas Fire Department issued a Special Order to support the prioritization of vaccinations. Personnel prioritization is as follows:

- Mobile Test unit staffers
- Personnel with known pre-existing conditions
- Paramedics
- Firefighter EMT's
- Captains
- Prevention
- Administration

Santa Clara County Fire is taking the lead on a program that targets 100 to 150 public safety vaccinations per day. The Milpitas Fire Department will be working closely with Santa Clara County Fire to support the plan as there will be a need for personnel to administer vaccinations.

## **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.