

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: February 10, 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 #36

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 January 27 provided information on the State's lifting of the Regional Stay-at-Home Order and shift to an age-based vaccine eligibility system. Additionally, Santa Clara County announced its return to the Purple Tier under the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), with some additional local restrictions remaining in place.

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

Updated State Guidance on House of Worship

On February 6, Governor Gavin Newsom's office announced that revised guidelines for indoor church services will be issued after the Supreme Court lifted the state's ban on indoor worship during the coronavirus pandemic. This link provides [guidance for places of worship](#) and also applies to cultural ceremonies like weddings and funerals.

California State Parks to Begin Reopening Campsites

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is reopening its campsites after weeks of closures imposed by the stay-at-home orders issued in December meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus as cases surged. Last week, officials said they would be reopening sites to those who held existing reservations first. New reservations opened on Jan. 28, but not all sites are available.

County

Santa Clara County Revised Guidance on Indoor Gatherings

The Health Officer strongly discourages indoor gatherings and urges religious institutions and congregants not to attend indoor gatherings. However, religious worship services may occur indoors at 20% capacity. For more information visit: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/mandatory-directives-gatherings.aspx>.

California's Largest Mass Vaccination Site Opens at Levi's Stadium

On February 9, Governor Newsom and Santa Clara County officials launched operations at the state's newest and largest mass COVID-19 vaccination site located at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. Workers will be able to vaccinate 5,000 county residents per day at the 68,500-seat facility. But capacity could rise as high as 15,000 people per day as vaccine supplies increase.

Santa Clara County Moves to a "No Wrong Door" Policy, Offering Vaccines to all Residents 65 and Older

Health officials in Santa Clara County announced a partnership with other major vaccine providers in the South Bay to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to any county resident 65 and older. Billed as a "no wrong door" policy, the new strategy is aimed to speed up distribution of the shots among the most vulnerable. The new policy allows residents 65 years and older to book appointments at any vaccine provider regardless of their coverage in an effort to streamline vaccinations for one of the most at-risk communities.

Santa Clara County asks Federal Government to Double COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation

South Bay health officials are calling on the federal government to increase COVID-19 vaccine production and distribution amid a sluggish vaccine rollout that led to [thousands of canceled appointments](#). The county needs 100,000 doses every week to get everyone who is eligible vaccinated by August vs. the current 40,000 doses the county receives from the federal government.

Santa Clara County Launches New Vaccine Data Dashboard

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department has launched a new [COVID-19 vaccine data dashboard](#). It includes information on total number of residents vaccinated to date, in addition to information by race/ethnicity, gender and age from the state's department of public health's California Immunization Registry. This data helps track and ensure equitable access for those most at risk of serious illness and death as well as those at greatest risk of exposure, officials said. The new vaccine data dashboard will be updated daily. The information is self-reported by vaccine providers in the county and includes information on non-county residents such as healthcare workers who live elsewhere but work in Santa Clara County.

City of Milpitas

Small Business Webinars

The City has partnered with the SBA and Black Chambers of Commerce in offering weekly webinars during the month of February to connect organizations, lenders and agencies that can help Milpitas small businesses stay afloat and recover from the pandemic.

Wednesday, February 17th at 5:00pm PST

RECOVERY with the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), Shuttered Venues Grant & Debt Relief.
CLICK [HERE](#) TO JOIN THE EVENT

Wednesday, February 24th at 5:00pm PST

SUSTAINABILITY with small business loans
Hear from industry leaders about the future of businesses.
CLICK [HERE](#) TO JOIN THE EVENT

Enforcement

The City prefers education over enforcement. Our approach is to help individuals and businesses understand the public health orders to gain their voluntarily compliance in lieu of issuing fines, citations, or making arrests. The police department is progressive in handling public health order violations by first issuing a warning. Those who repeatedly violate public health orders or are creating an immediate threat to public safety may be issued a citation. In extreme cases, an arrest may be necessary.

For Construction Sites, the Building and Fire Departments Inspection Personnel continue to work together to ensure that general contractors and sub-contractors are compliant with current protocols. For businesses in operation, the City's Fire Marshal's Office conducts proactive enforcement to ensure compliance with the [latest County Health Order](#). Below are typical/common health order violations that have been observed:

- No or improperly worn face coverings
- No or expired Social Distancing Protocols
- Unlawful operation of businesses required to be closed
- Open Break Rooms

When businesses do not comply with the order, the City can take several kinds of action to enforce the orders. The City employs several enforcement tools, including warnings and fines (under **Urgency Ordinance NS-9.291**, enacted August 11, 2020), permit suspension or revocation (in a variety of industries where the County issues permits), and even criminal prosecution (because a health order violation is a misdemeanor).

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, 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:** Starting with the October 6 City Council meeting, live, audio-only comments at public meetings was introduced. All Commission and Subcommittee meetings have also transitioned to this format to facilitate live public participation by registering using the Zoom link found on each posted (or published) public meeting agenda. 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. 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. 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.