

MEMORANDUM



Office of the City Manager

DATE: February 27, 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 #37

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 February 10 provided information on the State and County's updated guidance on worship services, launch of the County's "no wrong door" policy aimed to speed up distribution of the shots among the most vulnerable and the kick-off of operations at the state's newest and largest mass COVID-19 vaccination site located at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara.

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

California Accelerates Vaccinations for Education and Childcare Workers

On February 25, Governor Newsom announced that the state will dedicate 10% of vaccines to K-12 school staff and childcare workers starting March 1. This amounts to an estimated 75,000 vaccines per week. These workers will get special codes that let them schedule expedited appointments through myturn.ca.gov.

Governor Gavin Newsom Signs \$7.6 Billion Stimulus Package

On February 23, Governor Newsom signed a \$7.6 billion coronavirus relief package that will give at least \$600 one-time payments to 5.7 million people while setting aside more than \$2 billion in grants for struggling small businesses.

Updated Guidance on Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports

The State issued [updated guidance](#) providing direction on youth and recreational adult sports activities to support a safe environment for participants and the community at large. The guidance applies to all

organized youth sports and recreation including school- and community-sponsored programs and organizes sports by risk category and identifies the Tier in which they can resume practices and modified games. All sports can operate skills, drills, and conditioning activities under the current orders regardless of Tier.

State Launches School Reopening Interactive Maps

On February 12, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that the state has launched the Safe Schools for All Plan's interactive [Safe Schools Reopening Map](#), an online tool providing a statewide snapshot of the status of school re-openings across California. They list each school district's current mode of instruction (in-person, hybrid, or distance learning) and link to its COVID safety plan.

County

COVID-19 Testing Remains Important Even as Vaccine Efforts Scale Up

As COVID-19 vaccination efforts and eligibility continue scaling up across Santa Clara County, those who are at risk of exposure are reminded to continue getting tested regularly. Testing is now more accessible than ever, with mobile testing buses going to new neighborhoods each week and saliva collection offered at pop-up sites to provide an easier, less invasive experience. Testing opportunities will be available this week in San José, Gilroy, Sunnyvale, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara, Los Altos, Palo Alto, Milpitas, and Alviso. Appointments can be made starting seven days in advance of the testing date until all slots are reserved at www.sccfreetest.org. Appointment-based testing is also available in San José at the Fairgrounds, with appointments now available five days in advance.

Public Health Department Announces Major Changes in County Health Order Directives

With the continued progress in vaccinations and improving COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations, the County of Santa Clara Health Officer announced several changes in [local Health Directives](#) effective February 26.

- County's directive for [youth and adult recreational athletic activities](#) will no longer be in effect and will be subject to state guidelines.
- County's directive for programs [serving children and youth](#), like day camps, child care and fitness facilities, will no longer be in effect and will be subject to state guidelines.
- County's directive for [schools](#) to remain subject to state guidelines for K-12.
- County directive for [outdoor gatherings](#) will be more relaxed but will be subject to state guidelines which are more strict.

The Public Health Department also announced that it will be making significant changes to local Health Directives effective as soon as the County enters the State's "Red Tier," which could occur as soon as Wednesday, March 3rd. Additional changes will include reopening indoor gatherings and indoor dining.

COVID Vaccinations to Expand into Phase 1B Tier 1 in Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County announced eligibility expansion into Phase 1B Tier 1 categories effective February 28, 2021. Currently vaccine allocations to Santa Clara County and the Multi-County Health Care Providers has been limited but expectations are the supply chain is improving quickly. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are being administered in a broad spectrum of locations throughout the County.

Visit Santa Clara County COVID-19 Vaccine information page for details.

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/COVID19-vaccine-information-for-public.aspx>

Vaccine sites will expand eligibility under State guidance to include Food and Agriculture, Education and Child Care and Emergency Services. Although broad guidance is provided in the State Essential workforce index there has been a need for clarity. In the Education/Child Care sector the following clarifications have been provided to establish eligibility in Phase 1B Tier 1.

City of Milpitas

Employee Vaccination – Emergency Services and First Responder Staff

Starting Feb. 28, City staff who qualify for vaccinations as part of the Phase I Tier B may sign up for their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine. Appointments for that date and thereafter can be made [online](#). The City Manager's Office and department heads are working to identify the list of eligible employees. With the announcement, the County, however, cautioned that the vaccination supply remains limited. Registration is required for a vaccine appointment and employees will need to show proof of identification, and proof of employment in a qualifying sector within Santa Clara County.

Virtual Manufacturing Job Fair

Bay Area Community Colleges and AMBayArea are partnering with workforce development agencies to host a Manufacturing Job Fair to hire jobseekers for positions in the skilled trades including CAD Designers, HVAC Techs, Machinists, and Welders, as well as entry-level positions for assemblers and supportive services. The event will be on Friday, March 19th, from 2-5pm. Click [here](#) to register and see the full details of the job fair.

Distance Learning Pods Support to MUSD

At the request of the Milpitas Unified School District, the City has developed a Distance Learning Pod program model for Milpitas youth needing supervised care from 8am – 5pm during the school day. Student families approved by the MUSD will be in a Pod with City staff from beginning of school day to “bell” dismissal. After the school day is over, staff will transition to a recreational activity program until 5pm, providing additional homework help, socially distanced games, play, activities, crafts and more. The afterschool program portion will be held outside (on school grounds as much as possible), weather permitting. The first Pod is scheduled to open on Monday, March 8 and will be located at Pomeroy Elementary School. Lunch will be provided to the students through the MUSD nutrition program. Milpitas Assistance Program funds can be used by low-income families to subsidize much of the program costs.

Recreation and Community Services

All organized youth and adult sports must apply for permits with the City's Recreation and Community Services Department. Representatives from PAL's softball and football have submitted permits for allowable uses and will be offering skills, drills, and conditioning programs to Milpitas starting February 27. Recreation and Community Services remains in constant contact with the Youth Sports leadership on allowable uses and safety protocols. The Milpitas Sports Center continues to program outdoor fitness classes and outdoor aquatics as allowed under the current and new orders. Individual residents wishing to work out in parks and open space may do so but are limited to socializing with no more than three (3) households under the State issued [Gathering Orders](#).

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.