

Santa Clara County



Get Tested for COVID-19: 6 Events Across the County. Dear Neighbors,

Dear Community Partners,

We write to provide our weekly update related to the County's COVID-19 response efforts.

About 86% of infections are occurring through community spread and a troubling trend is the fast-rising rates of positive cases in young adults ages 18 to 39. Although this

group may see lower rates of hospitalization and severe illness, the epidemic is spreading more quickly among these residents. It is then only a matter of time before the virus is transmitted from them to more vulnerable populations. You can hear a clip of Dr. Cody talking to the Board of Supervisors on this trend [here](#).

It seems that some of the rise in cases is coming from residents letting their guard down. Although we have opened sectors of the economy in a deliberate fashion that requires businesses to have multiple safety protocols in place, these reopenings seemed to send message to many residents that conditions are now "safe." However, nothing has changed with the virus. We are still seeing a lot of asymptomatic transmission, and the virus is still able to spread quickly.

We need to continue to make this top line message clear: COVID-19 is still here. It is very real, and it is easy to transmit. Residents need to wear a face covering any time they are outside their household. People should stay at least six feet apart, and we all need to limit contact with other people. If we don't take these actions, it jeopardizes our ability to get the economy back on track, get kids back to school, and get back to any semblance of normalcy.

County Releases New Dashboards and Detailed Data Tables for COVID-19

On Monday, the County released the [complete data tables](#) underlying its published dashboards tracking COVID-19 testing, cases, deaths, and hospital utilization. Accessible online via the County's Open Data Portal, these data tables contain full information from those dashboards, from the first cases in our area through the present. The data tables will be regularly updated to add the most recent information from the dashboards. The County closely tracks spread of disease and healthcare system response in our area and will continue to make more data available as response activities evolve. More data can be found through the Public Health Department's [Data Dashboards](#).

On Thursday, the County also launched a new Data Dashboard on [hospital capacity](#). This dashboard will provide additional information on the number of patients in general acute care hospitals within the county, as well as the number and percent of all beds that are available.

Pop-up Testing Locations for the Week of July 27

The pop-up testing program operated by Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) continues to provide free diagnostic COVID-19 testing around the County. Nasal swab testing is free for everyone—no health insurance or doctor’s note is required. No appointment is needed; anyone can simply stop by to get tested. A list of pop-up locations can be found online [here](#). As always, residents can find a testing location across the County at <http://www.sccfreetest.org> or by calling 2-1-1.

Given the popularity of SCVMC’s pop-up sites, we have instituted a new wristband system to allow patients to avoid a long wait in line. Those seeking a test can check in at any of the pop-up sites and receive a wristband for a designated timeslot later in the day; they then can leave and return at that time to get tested. This significantly reduces the amount of time that must be spent on site. However, the supply of wristbands depends on the number of available tests and they are only available as supplies last. Residents interested in getting tested at a pop-up site are encouraged to go earlier in the day to ensure they are able to pick up a wristband.

- **Santa Clara County Office of Education:** 1290 Ridder Park Drive, San José
- Tuesday, July 28 through Friday, July 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Oak Grove High School:** 285 Blossom Hill Rd, San José
- Tuesday, July 28 through Friday, July 31 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **South County Annex (formerly Del Buono Elementary):** 9300 Wren Avenue, Gilroy
- Tuesday, July 28 through Friday, July 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

37 of 58 Counties Currently on the State Monitoring List

One day after reaching the sobering record of 157 deaths on Thursday, California’s [County Monitoring List](#) has grown to 37 counties. Thirty-four of those counties, including Santa Clara County, have been on the list for three or more days in a row. As a reminder, counties reaching that distinction are barred from reopening certain indoor services such as hair and nail salons, malls, and gyms. This rule will remain in effect until the State issues a new rule, even if a county falls off the list. Schools cannot open for in-person classroom instruction unless their home county has been off the list for more than 14 days. However, there is an exemption/waiver process for elementary schools.

Counties are added to the Monitoring List when they meet one of the following criteria:

- **Elevated Disease Transmission:** Counties with 14-day case rates above 100 cases per 100,000 population OR case rates greater than 25 cases per 100,000 and an 8% or higher test positivity rate.
- **Increasing Hospitalizations:** Counties with a greater than 10% increase in the 3-day average of hospitalizations. (Santa Clara County was originally placed on the Monitoring List due to this metric. This [SF Gate article](#) provides more context.)
- **Limited Hospital Capacity:** Counties with less than 20% ICU bed availability or less than 25% of ventilators available.

Data Tables informing the County Monitoring List can be found [here](#).

State Releases Guidelines for Outdoor Barbershops and Hair Salons

On Monday, California Department of Public Health released guidelines for barbershops and hair salons to operate outdoors in a safe environment. The document provides guidance for hair salons and barbershops to support a safe, clean, outdoor environment for workers and customers. Hair salon or barbershop owners or operators must acknowledge that lessees should only resume operations when they are ready and able to implement the necessary safety measures to provide for their safety and that of their customers.

The guidelines state that outdoor operations may be conducted under a tent, canopy, or other sun shelter as long as no more than one side is closed, allowing sufficient outdoor air movement. Salons and barbershops should not perform a service that would require a customer to have to enter the establishment.

Click [here](#) for the full guidelines.

Governor Newsom Announces New Supports for California Workers

Governor Gavin Newsom [announced](#) a host of new safeguards for California workers who face the greatest risk of COVID-19. He also committed to working with the Legislature and key stakeholders to expand critical protections like paid sick leave.

Helping Workers Isolate and Quarantine

The state will allocate existing federal funds to local public health departments and community-based organizations to assist with supportive services for isolation and quarantine. A new program, Housing for the Harvest, provides safe, temporary isolation spaces for agricultural and farmworkers who test positive or were exposed to the virus, which limits the risk of spreading COVID-19 to their coworkers or households.

Outreach and Education

This effort will leverage the public service media campaign and build a more comprehensive community engagement strategy to include work with community-based organizations, promotores, labor unions and worker advocacy groups to directly reach workers.

Support for Employees

Governor Newsom will work with the Legislature to build on previous executive action and advance worker protections. Expanded paid sick leave will provide workers financial security so they are able to stay home when sick. Similarly, workers' compensation access helps ensure that front-line workers can quarantine and stay home from work when ill.

Employer Resources

As California businesses work to reopen, a new [Employer Playbook](#) released yesterday will guide them on how to provide a clean environment for workers and customers to reduce risk.

Strategic Enforcement

Cal/OSHA and the Labor Commissioner's Office have strategically targeted investigations in high-risk industries, where the state has seen the most workplace outbreaks. Expedited enforcement authority and advanced reporting of health and safety hazards at work will improve enforcement outcomes. Requiring employers to report outbreaks to their local health departments will help track county transmission. Governor Newsom will work with the Legislature to establish this authority.

VTA Fares Scheduled to Resume August 1

VTA has [announced](#) that fare collection will resume for all bus, train, and paratransit services on August 1. The VTA Downtown Customer Service Center at 55-A West Santa Clara Street will also reopen on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., starting July 27. As VTA continues to increase its focus toward enhanced cleaning and protection for both riders and operators, partitions are now in place to limit contact between passengers and operators so that front-door boarding can resume. To reduce surface touch points, riders can download [VTA's EZfare app](#) on their phones or get a [Clipper card](#) and load funds online in advance instead of paying your fare with cash.

As outlined in [VTA's 10 Point Plan](#) to Strengthen Trust in Transit, passengers are required to wear a face covering while waiting for and on board transit. Operators are provided a variety of protective equipment, including face masks, face shields and other items to be worn as appropriate when helping passengers.

Weekly Resource Roundup

- **Updated Financial Assistance for Immigrants:** The Santa Clara County Office of Immigrant Relations has consolidated a list of financial resources for the immigrant community in an effort to mitigate the disproportionate impact of COVID-19. The list can be found [here](#) in their latest newsletter.
- **California for All Small Business Month:** Governor Newsom proclaimed July 2020 as Small Business Month which coincided with the start of the "Calling All Californians: #ShopSafeShopLocal" campaign. The #ShopSafeShopLocal campaign encourages shoppers in California to help small businesses operate safely during the pandemic. It also provides small business owners with resources to help them improve their online presence, including free website development and digital marketing. Find resources [here](#).
- **44 Children's Books About Mental Health:** The clinicians at the Child Mind Institute compiled a list of children's books that address emotional, behavioral and learning issues for kids. Take a look at what they recommend [here](#).
- **Stress Management Guide:** The World Health Organization has provided a stress management guide with practical techniques to overcome stress even in the most challenging times. Find it at <https://bit.ly/WHOSTressManagement>.
- **San José Park Volunteer Events Resume:** The San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department is looking for volunteers to help support its parks during the pandemic. Volunteers can relieve stress and enjoy the sunshine while helping out at places like Alum Rock Park and the Municipal Rose Garden. All upcoming volunteer events meet County and State Public Health Orders and guidelines. Participation is limited, and all volunteers must wear a face covering and keep a 6 foot distance from others. Signup forms must be completed online and emailed, at least one day prior to the

event. For more information, please contact Mollie Tobias at mollie.tobias@sanjoseca.gov or [visit the PRNS volunteer website](#).

Thank you for your essential leadership during this challenging time for our community,

CBO/Business Liaison

County of Santa Clara Emergency Operations Center

Website: <https://www.sccgov.org/covid19>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sccpublichealth/>

Instagram: [@scc_publichealth](#)

Twitter: [@HealthySCC](#)

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): Visit the County of Santa Clara's webpage for important updates, dashboards, and additional resources and actions taken to keep the community informed: www.sccgov.org/coronavirus

Please note that the County does not provide certifications or exemptions of any kind for businesses or residents related to this Order. County staff can help try to clarify certain aspects of the Order and point to language that may be relevant to a specific situation within the Order or the FAQ. However, staff correspondence must not be construed as granting any kind of official exemption. It is the responsibility of each individual business owner and individual to ensure their activities are consistent with all applicable State and local public health orders.

Shelter In Place Order

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/order-health-officer-050420.aspx>

The County of Santa Clara Emergency Operations Center
Social Media Toolkit: Testing and Face Coverings

<http://www.bac3-ca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Social-Media-Toolkit-SCC-Emergency-Operations-Center.pdf>