

Dear Community Partners,

We write to provide our weekly update related to the County of Santa Clara's COVID-19 response efforts. Public health officials in Santa Clara County [held a press conference on Thursday](#) to inform county residents that officials are continuing to see increases in the number and proportion of confirmed cases of COVID-19 variants, signaling that the region's progress in curbing the pandemic remains precarious. County residents are therefore urged to avoid travel, quarantine if travelling, and consistently use face coverings. A webcast of Thursday's press conference can be viewed online [here](#).

The increase in variants comes as the County of Santa Clara continues to face inadequate vaccine supply, as the number of allocated doses has remained flat over the past several weeks, with this week's allocation allowing for roughly 35,000 first dose appointments. The [State announced last week](#) that vaccine eligibility would expand on April 1 to those age 50 and over – and on April 15 to those age 16 and over – but more doses will be needed to vaccinate those waiting in line, particularly community members who are most impacted by the pandemic.

### **COVID-19 Cases in Santa Clara County**

This past week, the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department reported 8 more individuals in the county who contracted COVID-19 have lost their lives. This brings the total number of COVID-19 deaths in the county to 1,942. As of Friday, April 2nd, the total case count had reached 114,852, and the 7 day rolling average of new cases (based on specimen collection date) was at 109 cases per day.

As of Friday, there were 100 COVID positive patients hospitalized in Santa Clara County (down from 107 the prior week and 128 the week before that). Of these hospitalizations, 25 were in the ICU. COVID positive patients now occupy 7% of all ICU beds, and 19% of beds are currently available. More data can be found through the Public Health Department's [Data Dashboards](#).

### **Updates on County Vaccination Efforts**

This week, the County continued its efforts to move as quickly as possible to provide shots to the community's most vulnerable residents, [announcing on Wednesday](#) that approximately 1,000 frontline agricultural workers received second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine on Sunday, March 28 and at the César Chávez Day event on March 31. The vaccination drive was a partnership between the County of Santa Clara, United Farm Workers, Monterey Mushrooms, and the UFW Foundation, and there have been numerous vaccination events for farm workers at Monterey Mushrooms and other farms in the area.

[Vaccine data](#) from the California Department of Public Health's California Immunization Registry (CAIR2) now show that 70.7% of county residents age 65 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine, with 613,785 total residents now partially or fully vaccinated. These data reflect strong progress towards the County's goal of vaccinating at least 85% of residents age 16 or older by August 1, 2021. The data also continue to reflect the ongoing need to focus vaccination efforts on ensuring equitable access for those at greatest risk of serious illness and death, and those at greatest risk of exposure to COVID-19.

The State of California establishes when different populations are eligible to receive vaccine, and information on the State's vaccine prioritization is available on [California's vaccination website](#). The

latest updates on vaccine eligibility and how to schedule an appointment are available on the County's website at [sccfreevax.org](http://sccfreevax.org), including information on when those newly eligible can start to schedule vaccine appointments. Residents without internet access or who need additional assistance can call 211 for assistance in multiple languages. Appointments fill up quickly, but new appointments will be regularly released as vaccine supply allows, and community members are encouraged to check regularly.

### **Board of Supervisors to Receive COVID-19 Staff Report on April 6th**

At 1pm on Tuesday, April 6th, the Board of Supervisors will hear a report from the Public Health Officer and Administration related to the current status of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County. Click [here](#) to view the full meeting agenda and related materials, and the webcast of the meeting will be available [here](#) at the start of the meeting. Residents can join online [here](#).

### **COVID-19 Testing Information**

The County's COVID-19 testing teams [went on site this past week to two community-based organizations](#), as part of continuing efforts to increase access to testing. Making testing as easy as possible for community members at high risk of exposure is particularly important as the county moved into the Orange Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy on March 24. Residents can book an appointment for the Fairgrounds or the various rotating city sites, and appointments can be made in [Vietnamese](#), [Chinese](#), [Spanish](#), or [English](#). Visit [www.sccfreetest.org](http://www.sccfreetest.org) to search for an available site by [City](#) or [Date](#), or to see the complete list of available [County testing sites](#).

### **Additional Community-Based and State-Operated Testing Options**

Roots Community Health Center and Gardner Health Services continue to organize free, community-based drop-in COVID-19 testing events every Wednesday. Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) provides similar community-based testing every Friday at their Story Road site. No appointments are necessary, and all individuals are served regardless of insurance or immigration status.

- **Gardner Health Services:** Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum Rock Avenue, San José, 95116. For more information, call 408-457-7100.
- **AACI Health Center:** Story Road Clinic: 749 Story Rd, #50, San José CA 95122. For more information, call 408-975-2763.

In addition, there are several testing sites now operated OptumServe, a State contractor. These sites are free but require appointments. Visit [here](#) or call (888) 634-1123 to schedule an appointment:

- **Independence High School (drive through):** 617 N. Jackson Ave., San José.
- **Mount Pleasant High School (drive through):** 1750 S. White Road, San José.
- **Gilroy Civic Center:** 7351 Church St., Gilroy
- **Gavilan College:** Social Science Building, 5055 Santa Teresa Blvd, Gilroy CA 95020.
- **Grange in Morgan Hill:** 40 E 4th Street, Morgan Hill CA 95037.
- **James Lick High School:** 2951 Alum Rock Ave., San José.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership during these difficult times,

**Liaison Officer**

**County of Santa Clara Emergency Operations Center**

Website: <http://sccphd.org/coronavirus>

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

Instagram: [@scc\\_publichealth](https://www.instagram.com/scc_publichealth)

Twitter: [@HealthySCC](https://twitter.com/HealthySCC)