

PRESS RELEASE

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City of Milpitas-Milpitas Unified School District Action Plan to Protect Residents, MUSD and City Employees, Families and Students as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to spread

Milpitas, CA — The City of Milpitas and Milpitas Unified School District are taking proactive steps in developing on-going action plans to best minimize the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in our community.

Richard Tran, Mayor of Milpitas states, “We are in constant communication to meet our joint goal of protecting the well-being of the members of the community who are most vulnerable to severe illness. According to the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, the most vulnerable are our residents over the age of 50 with those over 80 being the highest risk category, and residents of all ages who have respiratory diseases, chronic illness, immune deficiencies and other adverse health conditions.”

The Public Health Department is providing daily updates and announcing new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County. The City of Milpitas and Milpitas Unified School District are tracking new guidelines to slow the spread of the virus and working closely to ensure the most recent CDC and Santa Clara County recommendations are met.

Vice Mayor Bob Nuñez acknowledges the community impact and states, “We understand these recommendations will have an impact on our local events, community services, and most importantly, the lives of Milpitas residents, businesses and their employees. We are following the recommendations of Santa Clara County Public Health in consultation with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.”

As of March 5, 2020 – Guidance for people at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness

The County Public Health Department is recommending that persons at higher risk of severe illness should stay home and away from crowded social gatherings of people as much as possible such as parades, conferences, sporting events, and concerts where large numbers of people are within arm’s length of one another. Those at higher risk include:

- People over 50 years of age. The risk increases significantly thereafter and escalates with age, with persons over age 80 being in the highest risk category.
- People, regardless of age, with underlying health conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, or chronic lung diseases like COPD, as well as those with severely weakened immune systems.

As of March 5, 2020 – Guidance for people who are sick

Stay home and do not go out in public if you are sick. Avoid medical settings unless necessary. If you are ill call your doctor's office first before going in and let them know your symptoms.

As of March 5, 2020 – Guidance for workplaces and businesses

Employers should take steps to make it more feasible for their employees to work in ways that minimize close contact with large numbers of people. Employers should:

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- Minimize the number of employees working within arm's length of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Consider use of telecommuting options for appropriate employees.
- Consider staggering start and end times to reduce large numbers of people coming together at the same time.
- Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
- Not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick as healthcare offices may be very busy and unable to provide timely documentation.

As of March 5, 2020 – Guidance from the City of Milpitas about City services and programs

Milpitas Interim City Manager Steve McHarris states, "Milpitas is committed to ensuring the safety of its employees, sustaining delivery of essential City services, and ensuring timely and consistent communication both with our employees and our community. We've already taken steps to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 in City facilities."

These measures include the acquisition and deployment of enhanced personal protective equipment and more wall-mounted hand sanitizing stations for areas of City facilities widely accessible to the public, such as recreation and library facilities; installation of which will be completed by next week.

The City has increased dining sanitation measures at the Senior Center and increased facility maintenance for disinfection in areas of high public traffic, such as door handles, countertops, handrails, and elevators.

The City is also planning to suspend some programs and cancel large events planned in the next 30 days and will make specific decisions as the local conditions evolve and as public health recommendations advise.

"We will continue to monitor the situation closely and make adjustments as needed to our City operations," said McHarris. We will continue to communicate any updates from the CDC and the County and as we make changes to services through the City website and social media sites."

Milpitas Senior Center and Sports Center programs that have larger attendance numbers will be suspended for the next 30 days, starting March 9, 2020

Food Services will continue for Seniors with low income and fixed income.

As of March 5, 2020 – Guidance for Milpitas Unified District Schools

The County Public Health Department **is not** recommending closing schools at this time. In the event a staff member or student in a specific school is confirmed to have COVID-19, the District will take the appropriate steps, whether closure of a particular school or the entire district is required for one or more days.

MUSD Board President Hon Lien states, “The Board of Trustees, Superintendent, Executive Cabinet and Safety Team are working in a coordinated effort with the California Department of Education, Santa Clara County Office of Education and Public Health Department to minimize the risk of exposure to the virus.”

The County Public Health Department **is not** recommending school closures at this time because children have not been shown to be a high-risk group for serious illness from this virus. As much as possible, children should be allowed to carry on with their education and normal activities.

Cheryl Jordan, Superintendent of the Milpitas Unified School District, states, “MUSD is scheduling a new deep cleaning of all of its facilities, increasing its parent communications and rapidly expanding its ability for students and teachers to learn, study, and teach using the internet and online resources. We have already cancelled and/or postponed a number of activities scheduled for the month of March. Decisions regarding events to be held in April or later will be assessed at the end of this month.”

Students and non-school age children who have underlying health conditions, such as weakened immune systems are at higher risk. Caregivers of children with underlying health conditions should consult with healthcare providers about whether their children should stay home.

Additional guidelines and recommendations from Santa Clara County Public Health include:

As of March 5, 2020 – Guidance for the general public

Even if you are not ill, avoid visiting hospitals, long term care facilities, or nursing homes to the extent possible. If you do need to visit one of these facilities, limit your time there and keep 6 feet away from patients and employees of the facility.

- Stay home when sick and away from others in your household.
- Practice excellent personal hygiene habits, [frequently washing your hands](#) with soap and water, coughing into a tissue or your elbow, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay away from people who are ill, especially if you are at higher risk for serious illness.

- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects (like doorknobs and light switches). Regular household cleaners are effective.
- Get 7-9 hours of rest each night, drink plenty of fluids, eat healthy foods, and manage your stress to keep your immunity strong.

Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask. CDC does **not** recommend that people who are healthy wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

Facemasks should only be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and [careproviders in close settings](#) (at home or in a healthcare facility).

Do not go to the emergency room unless essential. Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those with the most critical needs. If you have symptoms like cough, fever, or other respiratory problems, contact your regular doctor first.

As of March 5, 2020 – Guidance for mass gatherings and community events

At this time, the City of Milpitas and MUSD are postponing or canceling mass gatherings and large community events where large numbers of people are within arm's length of one another. If bringing groups of people together is unavoidable:

- Urge anyone who is sick not to attend.
- Encourage those who are at higher risk for serious illness not to attend.
- Try to find ways to give people more physical space so that they aren't in close contact as much as possible.
- Encourage attendees to follow increased hygiene, such as:
 - Washing their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used, avoid close contact with other people
 - Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth
 - Covering their cough or sneeze with a tissue - if available - or into their elbow

Stay informed. Information is changing frequently:

MUSD Coronavirus Webpage: [MUSD Coronavirus Webpage with Updates](#)
 City of Milpitas Coronavirus Webpage: [City of Milpitas Coronavirus Updates](#)

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

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

Public Health Instagram: @scc_publichealth

Public Health Twitter: @HealthySCC