

# MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



**DATE:** January 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 #35

**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 12 provided information on the state's acceleration of safe vaccine distribution, Golden State Stimulus and Extension of Eviction Moratorium and the Vaccination Data Health Order.

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

### *State Lifts COVID-19 Regional Stay-at-Home Order*

Governor Gavin Newsom lifted [stay-at-home orders](#) across the state on January 25 in response to improving coronavirus conditions. State health officials project that available ICU capacity in every California region will reach above 15% in four weeks, allowing the order to end across California. Counties will return to assigned Blueprint tiers and urged to continue safe practices, avoiding crowds and wearing a mask when leaving home. Most California counties will return to the most restrictive purple tier of a four-tier, color-coded system for determining what businesses can open. The state is also lifting the 10pm to 5am curfew.

### *State Shifts to Age-Based Vaccine Eligibility System*

Governor Newsom said that California will continue to work through inoculating those who are 65 and older, health care workers and will prioritize first responders, food and agricultural workers, teachers, and school staff. From here, the state wants to shift to age-based eligibility because it will allow for vaccines to get to impacted communities much more expeditiously. As part of the new approach, the state has unveiled a new program called "My Turn" that will allow Californians to sign up for text or email alerts for when they are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

### *Eviction Moratorium Extension*

Governor Gavin Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon issued an extension to the eviction moratorium to protect Californians impacted by COVID-19. The eviction moratorium in California is extended through June 30, 2021 – protecting tenants and small landlords from losing their housing as the nation continues to confront the pandemic. The state is also moving forward as quickly as possible to deploy California's share of the latest federal stimulus bill – ensuring that up to \$2.6 billion in renter aid is administered quickly, equitably and accountably. Governor Newsom emphasized that the critically needed federal funds, targeted to the most at-risk households with unpaid back rent, will help tenants stay afloat during and after the pandemic. Income-qualified tenants and their landlords can also choose to receive direct rental assistance in exchange for forgiving prior rental debt.

County

### *Santa Clara County Returns to Purple Tier*

Effective January 25, Santa Clara County will return to the Purple Tier of the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), with some additional local restrictions remaining in place. Outdoor dining may resume as well as personal care services and professional, collegiate, and adult and youth sports. The County's mandatory travel quarantine remains in place, requiring a 10-day quarantine for most people who travel into the county from more than 150 miles away. As always, businesses and individuals must follow both the State and County Health Officer orders, and where there is a conflict between the two, the stricter rules must be followed.

The County's [Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations](#) has been updated to reflect current openings and closings. Most businesses that are allowed to open indoor operations to the public must limit capacity of their publicly accessible space to 20%.

- Outdoor gatherings with up to three households are now allowed for any purpose. Larger outdoor gatherings with up to 200 people are allowed only for political, religious, or ceremonial purposes, or as otherwise specifically allowed by the State. Indoor gatherings of any kind remain prohibited. All allowed gatherings must comply with the County's updated [Mandatory Directive for Gatherings](#).
- Outdoor dining may resume, subject to the [Mandatory Directive for Dining](#). Indoor dining remains prohibited. Bars, breweries, distilleries, and pubs may serve alcohol only outdoors and only in the same transaction as a meal.
- Personal care services may resume indoors and outdoors, subject to the [Mandatory Directive for Personal Care Services](#).
- Adult recreational sports activities may resume subject to the updated [Mandatory Directive for Gatherings](#), including specific rules in Section 9 of that Directive.
- Professional and collegiate sports may resume, subject to the updated [Mandatory Directive for Collegiate and Professional Sports](#).
- Youth sports may resume subject to the State's guidance applicable to those activities, as well as the County's [Mandatory Directive for Programs Serving Children and Youth](#).

The County's [Mandatory Directive on Travel](#), which requires most people who travel into the county from more than 150 miles away to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival, is still in effect.

The County's [Mandatory Directive for Lodging Facilities](#) is still in effect. Lodging facilities may not provide lodging services for non-essential purposes, such as tourism, recreational, or leisure purposes.

Non-essential travel should be avoided, especially in light of new variants of COVID-19 that are circulating globally and in the United States.

The key rules that remain in effect and applicable to all businesses can be found [here](#).

For more updates and information, the public may visit the county's [website](#). Information regarding COVID-19 testing is available at [www.sccfreetest.org](http://www.sccfreetest.org), and information about vaccine eligibility and distribution is available at [www.sccfreevax.org](http://www.sccfreevax.org).

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### *Outdoor Dining Guidelines*

Related to the lifting of the State's Stay-at-Home Order, the City shared a [Temporary Outdoor Dining Guideline](#) to help restaurant owners, operators and customers understand the updated directives under the Purple Tier.

### *Recreation and Community Services*

Virtual and in-person services will continue to be provided by the City including the Senior Nutrition "to-go" lunch program which to date has served over 18,000 meals since March 17. Lap Swimming at the Milpitas Sports Center also continued by reservation only, three days a week. Recent mandates related to the Purple Tier will allow for additional outdoor programs and services to return. Staff will be resuming picnic as gatherings of up to three households are now allowed outside. Youth and adult sports and fitness classes and programs may also return. Staff will be working to offer these services in both fully outdoor or through a hybrid model, allowing live instruction both in-person and virtually. Recreation and Community Services will also continue to work with the Youth Sports Groups as they seek to return to sports activities on Milpitas' fields.

In an effort to further support COVID-19 testing in Milpitas, staff has arranged for an additional SCC testing site at the Milpitas Community Center every Thursday and Saturday. It is anticipated that the Saturday testing date will allow for those working during the week to have additional access to testing service. Appointments can be made [here](#).

## **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. 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. This was based on requests from the Council and community. The majority of Board, Commission, and Subcommittee meetings are transitioning to this new format to engage live public participation. 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. City staff has also developed a self-check protocol that enables the safety of all employees. Protocols apply to all employees who are regularly coming to work to perform an essential service and may interact with the community or with other employees. With the new guideline from the County, additional questions about travel beyond 150 miles for non-essential work and inquiring about self-quarantine have been added. Each City Department is responsible to coordinate the process for their respective employees. The self-check protocols are based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, State and County and will be updated accordingly.
- **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.