

# MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



**DATE:** March 3, 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 #38

**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 27 provided information regarding the acceleration of vaccinations for education and childcare workers, signing of Governor Newsom's \$7.6 billion coronavirus relief package and the Public Health Department's announcement of major changes in the County Health Order Directives.

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 Launches New COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution System***

On March 1, California launched [a new COVID-19 vaccine distribution system](#) operated by insurance giant Blue Shield of California, a shift that state officials say will speed up the rollout of doses and unify a county-by-county assortment of eligibility standards. One noticeable change is that the state's [My Turn online system](#), which can be accessed at [myturn.ca.gov](#), will serve as the central site for all Californians to sign up for vaccination appointments. Individual counties and health care providers will still play an essential role in immunizing people at their vaccination sites and mobile clinics, but the central booking system is anticipated to make obtaining appointments more efficient and straight-forward.

County

### ***Santa Clara County Moving into Red Tier of State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy***

Following the State of California's announcement that Santa Clara County has met the requirements to move into the Red Tier of the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), the County of Santa Clara Health Officer

announced that the County will align with the State's framework and allow activities open in Red Tier counties to resume, effective Wednesday, March 3. As a result, most of the industry/activity-specific local directives will be lifted, including the Health Officer's Mandatory Directive on Travel. However, quarantining after travel is strongly recommended, in alignment with the State's [Travel Advisory](#).

The County's [October 5<sup>th</sup> Risk Reduction Order](#), which requires everyone to follow all State orders and guidance, maintain distance, and wear face coverings as much as possible, will remain in effect. The Order also requires all businesses and other entities to maximize telework, post a Social Distancing Protocol outlining specific COVID-19 safety plans, and promptly report any cases to the Public Health Department.

The following changes are effective, Wednesday, March 3:

All activities authorized under the State's Red Tier, including indoor dining, can resume in accordance with State capacity limits and safety protocols, including:

- Indoor dining at maximum 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Retail stores at maximum 50% capacity
- Gyms and fitness centers at maximum 10% capacity
- Movie theaters at maximum 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Zoos, museums, and aquariums at 25% maximum indoor capacity
- Sector and activity-specific local directives will no longer be in effect
- The Mandatory Directive on Travel will no longer be in effect

The County's basic risk reduction order is still in effect requiring face coverings, following social distance protocols, teleworking where available. For more information on what the State allows in the Red Tier, please visit [covid19.ca.gov](https://covid19.ca.gov).

City of Milpitas

### *Recreation and Community Services*

The City will begin accepting picnic reservations online beginning March 1. Under current County Public Health Guidelines, outdoor picnics are allowable, providing hosts and guests abide by COVID-19 safety measures. Picnics are limited to a maximum of three households. People must maintain a six-foot social distance from those outside their household, and wear masks when not eating or drinking. Hosts are responsible for disinfecting picnic tables and benches before and after their party and providing hand sanitizer for guests to use. Hosts must also keep a list of guest names and contact information in case a guest later tests positive for COVID-19 and contact tracing becomes necessary. For more information, call (408) 586-3210 or search "picnic" on Milpitas ActiveNet system after March 1.

### *Hot Meal Delivery to Residents of Terrace Gardens*

The Senior Center's SNP program is currently partnering with Terrace Gardens Senior Housing on free meals to be delivered to up to 80 residents a day. The funding for these meals is through the Community Development Block Grant to support providing hot, nutritious meals to seniors during the pandemic. During the week of February 16-19, the Senior Center delivered a total of 304 "to-go" meals to seniors for an average of 76 meals served a day.

## **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.