COVID-19 Update (April 24, 2020, 3 p.m.)

Source:  
City of Santa Clara Communications/Emergency Operations Center

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This is a summary of the City of Santa Clara’s latest response efforts along with impacts to local events and City programs/services due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

Current Developments

• While some Bay Area communities are enforcing the use of face coverings in public during the COVID-19 outbreak, the City of Santa Clara is not taking that approach.  
  o Instead, the City continues to support the County Public Health Officer’s urging of the community to wear face coverings when in public and practice social distancing.  
  o All individuals are strongly encouraged to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering, such as a bandana, scarf, towel or other piece of clothing or fabric, when leaving home.  
  o In the workplace, the City does require face coverings for staff performing essential functions.  
  o Public health officials stress that face coverings do not replace the need for social distancing which calls for individuals staying at least six feet away from others who are not part of their household.  
  o Read the full guidance from the County of Santa Clara’s Department of Public Health.

• The City continues to serve thousands of Santa Clara youth and seniors through its supplemental weekend meals programs as part of the COVID-19 emergency response.
Today, through a supplemental program to the Senior Nutrition Program, the City distributed 1108 weekend meals to seniors, age 60 and up, including those who are homebound as well as the unhoused.

Yesterday’s Healthy Meals Santa Clara program provided 9,700 weekend meals to youth.

To help support these programs, consider making a donation through the City’s nonprofit partner, the Mission City Community Fund.

With many Santa Clarans working from home, the City is now providing free virtual hometown backgrounds for the public to use when participating in online Zoom meetings.

Download and install one or all of our 16 virtual backgrounds that help represent why Santa Clara is The Center of What’s Possible virtually.

Check out the virtual backgrounds.

Out of concern for the safety of visitors and in line with the County of Santa Clara’s Shelter in Place order, the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara is currently closed. However, you can still enjoy Triton’s digital art galleries!

Visit the Triton Museum of Art on Instagram to explore diverse exhibitions of art through photos and a series of episodes of “An Exhibition in Your Pocket.”

The California Department of Motor Vehicles is offering relief to ID cardholders, vehicle owners and businesses during this difficult time.

On Thursday, April 23, the DMV announced it is waiving late fees and penalties for vehicle registration, extending expiring identification cards, temporary operating permits and motor carrier permits.

For more details, view the DMV news release.

Meetings

The City Council will hold its next meeting at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

There is now a new way for the public to participate in Council meetings remotely.

Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City of Santa Clara has implemented methods for the public to participate remotely:

- Via Zoom:
  - Meeting ID: 997-0675-9306
• Joining via computer, visit https://zoom.us/join
  o To address the Council on an agenda item, click “raise hand.”
• Joining via phone: 1-669-900-6833
  o To address the Council on an agenda item, hit *9 on the phone.
  ▪ Via the City’s eComment (available during the meeting)
  ▪ Via email to PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov
• For individuals who do not have the above access, the City Cafeteria has been set up to accommodate up to 10 people at a time and public comment will be given from that location.
• With the heightened “Stay at Home” order by the State and the continued order by the County, the Mayor will be present for the meeting with Councilmembers and department heads participating remotely. A limited number of staff will also be present. The meeting set-up is in line with the recommendations of the COVID-19 White House Task Force, which notes no more than 10 people gatherings.
• As usual, the public can view the meetings on SantaClaraCA.gov, Santa Clara City Television (Comcast cable channel 15 or AT&T U-verse channel 99), or the livestream on the City’s YouTube channel or Facebook page.

Subscribe to the City News eNotification list to receive the latest updates on this public health emergency.