11.18.2020

Updates and information on COVID-19 community support programs and projects for the San Carlos community.

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San Mateo County Moves Back into More Restrictive Red Tier 2

Following an increase in coronavirus cases, the State moved San Mateo County back from Orange (Moderate) Tier 3 to Red (Substantial) Tier 2. This change modifies indoor dining capacity and places other limits on businesses and activities such as gyms and movie theaters. School operations are not impacted.

The County’s Red Tier 2 status is due to the increase in our adjusted case rate, which is now 5.7 daily new cases per 100,000 in population. That’s more than double the adjusted case rate of 2.2 per 100,000 in population from the November 9 tier determination. A case rate of 7 per 100,000 population would move San Mateo County into the Purple (Widespread) Tier 4. At a news conference on Monday, Governor Newsom cautioned that further restrictions may be implemented, including a curfew, if case counts do not come down.

Summary of Red Tier 2:

- Restaurants indoors (max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer)
- All retail indoors (max 50% capacity)
- Shopping centers, swap meets indoors (max 50% capacity, closed common areas)
- Personal care services – hair and nail salons, barbershops (open with modifications)
- Museums, zoos, and aquariums (max 25% capacity)
- Places of worship (max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer)
- Movie theaters indoors (max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer)
- Gyms and fitness centers indoors (max 10% capacity)

To slow the spread of the virus, all businesses, organizations, child care facilities, schools and other operations that are allowed to open under the State’s COVID-19 blueprint must follow industry-specific health guidelines and adhere to local health orders that mandate face coverings and social distancing. See the State’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy for details by business sector and activity.

Schools
The County’s transition back to Red Tier 2 does not impact the operation of our schools as they are following the Pandemic Recovery Framework, which involves layers of safety measures.

Gatherings and Staying Safe During the Holidays

The safest way to celebrate this holiday season is virtually or with members of your household. Gathering with people outside your household – even extended family – increases the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. There are many ways to enjoy the holidays with loved ones without gathering:

- Enjoy holiday traditions at home with your household
- Decorate your home and/or yard
- Share a virtual meal with family and friends
- Host online parties and/or contests
- Prepare meals using traditional recipes and deliver to family and neighbors
- Attend holiday movie nights at drive-in venues
- Visit holiday-themed outdoor art installations
Participate in drive-by events where everyone stays in their vehicles

These recommendations are consistent with the State’s directives on private gatherings and San Mateo County Health Official's recommendations on gathering during the holidays.

Paid Work Experience for San Mateo County Residents

In partnership with the San Mateo County COVID-Recovery Program, NOVAworks and SAMCEDA are now offering a paid work experience opportunity. Participants will receive work-based learning, paying up to $20 per hour for up to 40 hours per week, in a potentially new occupation. The program is limited to a 4 to 6 week timeline, ending on or about December 24, 2020. Participating businesses include such industries as retail, restaurants, service providers, and technology. Find out more information and submit your application through the SAMCEDA program flyer.

Small businesses in need of workers who are interested in participating in the program should contact NOVAworks' Program Manager, Matt Klein at mklein@novaworks.org. Funding support may be available.

Stanford Medicine Virtual Town Hall

Stanford Medicine is hosting its 6th Virtual Town Hall on the COVID-19 outbreak, focusing on Vaccine Clinical Trials, “Making Sense of the Evidence.” This virtual event will take place via Zoom and Facebook on Thursday, November 19 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Register here. Topics will include:

- How do vaccine clinical trials work?
- What do we know about the current vaccine trials underway in the United States?
- How do we know if it’s safe to participate in a trial?
- Who can/should participate in vaccine trials?
- Perspectives from a current vaccine trial volunteer

New Library e-Resources Support At-Home Learning

The San Mateo County Library system now has several new e-resources for students, teachers, and families to access from home. All of the free online resources provide databases and collections to support education of every kind, from early literacy to college prep. Also, any library patron needing to print a worksheet or homework can utilize the library’s free print anywhere service. To learn more visit the San Mateo County Library website.

Small Property Owner Grant Requirements Revised, Application Period Closes Nov. 25

The San Mateo County Small Property Owner Assistance program, established to assist residential property owners impacted by COVID-19, has reduced some application requirements and extended the application deadline to Wednesday, November 25. While income and rental price remain priorities for grant making decisions, the following requirements have been eliminated:

- Earn over 50% of income from rental properties
- Income cap
Eligible units rented at or below fair market rates

See all program details and apply at www.smcstrong.org. Questions can be directed to PropertyOwnerGrants@smcgov.org.

COVID-19 Testing Available for Adults and Children

Testing for COVID-19 is available in San Mateo County and is a wise choice whether you’re concerned because of your job or your living situation, or you’re afraid you’ve been exposed, or if you’re just worried about COVID-19.

The COVID-19 diagnostic test is safe, easy, and available at various locations in San Mateo County at no-cost to you regardless of which testing site you choose. Adults age 18 and over can schedule a test Tuesdays through Saturdays at the San Mateo County Event Center or at a rotating series of neighborhood locations.

Testing is now available for children ages 5 to 17. Learn more and register on the County's website.

11/19 Facebook Live Event: Increasing Access to COVID-19 Testing is About Equity

San Mateo County is working to expand COVID-19 testing opportunities, including additional mobile operations. Increasing access to testing plays an important role in slowing the spread of COVID-19 as local data reveals that people of color have been the most impacted by the pandemic. Learn more about how the County is reducing disparate impacts on vulnerable communities at the Facebook Live Event on Thursday, November 19 at 1:00 p.m.

Previous Newsletters

Previous newsletters with resources for Health Orders, staying safe, residents, businesses and workers, and volunteers are linked below.

Previous Community Support Update Newsletters

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(650) 802-4228

November 18, 2020