

NEWS

March 9, 2020 **For Immediate Release**

County of San Mateo Maintains Local Response to COVID-19

Redwood City, Calif. – The County of San Mateo continues to work to protect public health and safety in response to the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19.

The County of San Mateo's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains open to coordinate countywide response and communications in response to the situation. The EOC's Joint Information Center will provide daily status reports at approximately 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until further notice. Today's report:

San Mateo County COVID-19 Cases Reach Nine

San Mateo County Health has released the following information about local COVID-19 cases:

Presumptive Positive: 5 Adult Cases (Awaiting CDC confirmation)

Positive: 4 Adult Cases (CDC confirmed)

San Mateo County Health provides updates and information on its website: https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus

The County is working to identify potential sites on County-owned land to temporarily house patients whose needs cannot be accommodated at their homes and do not warrant hospitalization. Hospitals cannot release patients until suitable isolation facilities are available.

Reliable Resources

County officials recommend residents rely on official channels for news and information about COVID-19 and efforts to contain its spread.

Residents should check with their local district for information about schools, not social media posts from unaccredited websites, for instance. The following provide reliable and trusted information:

San Mateo County Health

https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

https://www.cdc.gov

San Mateo County Office of Education

https://www.smcoe.org

"The best and more reliable resource for information about the coronavirus and efforts to contain its spread locally is the San Mateo County Health and nationally is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," said Deputy County Manager Iliana Rodriguez. "There is a great deal of false and misleading information out there and anyone seeing something alarming should check the source."

Price Gouging Alert

San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe today issued a price gouging alert following the recent governor's proclamation of a state of emergency to deal with the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Price gouging, as defined in <u>Penal Code section 396</u>, is illegal after such a proclamation or declaration.

A person who would like to report an incident of price gouging in San Mateo County should contact the District Attorney's Office by calling (650) 363-4403 or at da.smcgov.org.

2-1-1 Call Center

Residents with non-medical, non-emergency questions about the coronavirus can call 2-1-1 or text 211211 at any time, day or night.

The 2-1-1 service received 1,379 text requests for information and 73 calls from Friday evening through Sunday evening. 2-1-1 is a confidential service available in 180 languages.

Callers from landlines and cellular telephones located within San Mateo County are connected with a trained 2-1-1 service professional.