

**COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESOURCES****#ComeTogetherSMC**

This community resource e-newsletter is designed to keep you up to date on COVID-19 information and community resources.

Topics

California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy Unveiled
Community Crew Coming to a Neighborhood Near You!
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Resources to Help You Through the Pandemic
Organization Spotlight: Mental Health Association of San Mateo County

California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy Unveiled

SAN MATEO COUNTY IS AT

Red

RISK LEVEL

Allowed Indoors

- ▶ Hair, nail, body waxing salons
- ▶ Restaurants at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- ▶ Places of worship at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- ▶ Museums, Zoos & Aquariums at 25% capacity
- ▶ Movie theaters at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- ▶ Gyms & Fitness Centers at 10% capacity
- ▶ Malls can increase capacity to 50%

Not Currently Allowed to Resume Operation

- ▶ Bars, Breweries & Distilleries

6ft

Counties can move to a less restrictive level as COVID transmission goes down and testing goes up.

Stay diligent about keeping your distance, wearing your mask, getting tested, and following all protocols and directives.

For more information, visit smcgov.org

**COUNTY OF
SAN MATEO**

California is now following the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, a statewide plan for living with COVID-19 for the long haul. The plan imposes risk-based criteria for the tightening and loosening of restrictions on activities and expands the length of time between changes to assess how any movement affects the trajectory of the disease.

Each county falls into one of four colored tiers – Purple (Widespread), Red (Substantial), Orange (Moderate) and Yellow (Minimal) – based on how prevalent COVID-19 is in each county and the extent of community spread. Counties must remain in a tier for at least three weeks, at a minimum, before advancing to a different tier.

As of Sept. 22, the County of San Mateo was assigned to the red tier. The red tier pertains to a substantial risk level and means some non-essential indoor business operations are closed. However, red-ranked counties may open some businesses and activities with modifications in place, such as indoor dining, movie theaters and places of worship operating at a maximum 25 percent capacity. Gyms may operate indoors at a maximum 10 percent capacity.

Find more information [here](#) and check our county's status [here](#).

Check County Status

Community Crew Coming to a Neighborhood Near You!



The Community Crew is helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 by handing out FREE face masks and COVID-19 resource guides to communities within San Mateo County. Comprised of the outreach team from the County's Office of Community Affairs, the Community Crew helps to inform and encourage residents with the hope that everyone will do their part and wear a face mask!

Remember, if each of us wears a mask, everyone is protected. Face masks are an easy way to help decrease COVID-19 transmission and save lives.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) for resources, updates, and locations near you!
@SMC_CommAffairs

COVID Testimonial: 'I Don't Wish This on Anyone'



A member of our community who was directly impacted by COVID-19 shares how the virus has impacted their life.

"While my husband is home from the hospital, the reality is that he is far from recuperated. He was released from the hospital two days after leaving the ICU, where he almost died from internal bleeding and was 100 percent on oxygen/not breathing on his own. He was released early because the hospitals are flooded with COVID cases and they needed that bed. He is home in bed on oxygen. He is so weak and can't breathe to the point that walking to the bathroom and showering is difficult for him (even with his oxygen tank).

He receives calls several times a day from nurses asking for his vitals. I am on leave and am exhausted. I'm up every hour at night checking in on him since we're isolated in different rooms. Mainly I'm checking on him because there were three separate times while he was in the hospital when we thought he was okay and an hour later the doctor would call me telling me his life was in danger. I get scared this will happen at home.

While I am so blessed he is home, I can't lay by his side. It's been almost four weeks since we've hugged and kissed. I can only be in his room for so long while I'm wearing masks and gloves. I am exhausted. I am overwhelmed. I am emotional. He is frustrated with not being able to recover quickly. He is emotional and triggered by this entire experience.

I share this testimony not for sympathy, but because this is real. I also want our communities who are essential workers and getting hit the hardest [by] exposing themselves to receive the compensation and healthcare precautions to protect them.

For those folks concerned about their social lives, they will resume one day. As for my husband and I, COVID has marked our lives forever.”

Get Tested for COVID-19



The County of San Mateo has recently expanded no-cost COVID-19 testing opportunities, including additional mobile operations and targeted testing where outbreaks are suspected. You do not need a doctor's note or medical insurance to get tested, regardless of immigration status.

Verily's Baseline COVID-19 Testing Program will offer testing Tuesdays through Saturdays at the San Mateo County Event Center from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be a rotating mobile testing operation serving the communities of Half Moon Bay, Daly City, San Bruno, East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks. Visit the [County's COVID-19 Testing page](#) for the mobile site locations and hours of testing. To make an appointment for the Event Center or a mobile site, visit projectbaseline.com/COVID19. Appointments are available up to seven days in advance, and a Gmail account is necessary for booking. Remember to bring your photo ID and the reference ID from your confirmation email to your appointment.

If you don't have access to the internet, an on-site volunteer may be able to help you register and get tested.

Working with cities and local partners, the County is also providing testing to local communities at pop-up neighborhood testing sites in priority locations as identified by Public Health. Some residents may receive information about the availability of such sites through targeted outreach in their neighborhoods and communities.

Most results are returned in 72 hours. If you test positive for COVID-19, a [contact tracer](#) with San Mateo County Health will contact you. Certain support services may be available for those who qualify. If you do test positive, view [home isolation instructions](#) in multiple languages.

Resources to Help You Through the Pandemic



Behind on rent due to COVID-19?

Evictions due to rent owed for April 2020 through August 2020 are limited by the [San Mateo County Eviction Moratorium](#). You can make payments toward rent debt for those months over the next six to 12 months. On Aug. 31, when the county moratorium expired, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a law that provides

tenants with additional protections. This flyer from Legal Aid Society outlines the important steps to take:

Behind on Rent Due to COVID-19?

AB 3088 is a new state law that provides some protections.

*Two steps to **prevent eviction** for rent debt:*



1 By January 31, 2021 you must pay at least 25% of the rent for the period of September 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021.

When you make a payment, write on the check or money order that the payment is for the current month of rent, and include a letter instructing the landlord to apply the rent to the current month. A letter template is available at www.legalaidsmc.org/covid19

2 Provide a signed Declaration of COVID-19-Related Financial Distress to your landlord.

If your landlord serves a written demand for payment with a Declaration form, sign and return the form within 15 days. You do not have to wait for the landlord to demand the rent and serve the form to you. You may use the AB 3088 "Declaration of COVID Financial Distress" form found at www.legalaidsmc.org/covid19

AB 3088 has many other provisions about debt collection and other types of evictions.

**If you need legal advice,
call (650) 517-8911 to
schedule a free consultation.**



Small-Property Owner Assistance Program

The Small-Property Owner Assistance Program seeks to improve the stability of rental housing in the county and mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

on small residential rental property owners. The program will provide grants of up to \$6,000 per residential rental unit to qualified county residents who own and lease small numbers of residential rental properties in San Mateo County, who rely on rental properties as a primary source of income, and whose rental income has been reduced as a result of COVID-19. The program will also benefit tenants of relief-granted properties through increased housing security and reduced back-rent.

Property owners may apply for a grant for up to 10 of their rental units for which some or all of the rent owed between April 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020 has not been paid. The application window will open later this month. Please continue to check smcstrong.org to find the most up-to-date program information.

Additional Resources

- The [Great Plates Delivered SMC](#) program helps seniors at high risk of contracting COVID-19 stay home and stay healthy by delivering three nutritious meals a day. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance program has extended this program through Oct. 9, 2020. To learn more about the [County of San Mateo's participation in the Great Plates Program](#), or if you are a senior who wants to participate locally, call 1-800-675-8437.
- [San Mateo County Immigrant Relief Fund](#)
- Housing Industry Foundation's [Emergency Housing Fund](#)
- San Mateo County's [Core Service Agencies](#)
- [COVID-19 Resource Page for Residents & Small Businesses](#)
- [Second Harvest Food Bank](#) and the County's [Food Assistance page](#)
- [The San Mateo County Economic Development Association](#) (resources for assistance and guidance for businesses and workers impacted by COVID-19)
- [San Mateo County COVID-19 data](#)

Organization Spotlight: Mental Health Association of San Mateo County



San Mateo County has long partnered with the Redwood City-based Mental Health Association (MHA) to empower and support residents to live their best lives. When County Health sought a partner to support individuals needing to isolate or quarantine due to testing positive for COVID-19 or coming in close contact with someone who contracted the disease, MHA quickly mobilized a program to support county residents in removing any barriers to safe isolation.



In the program's first two weeks, referrals from the County Health Communicable Disease team that is following up with every COVID-19-positive case have increased

from three per day to 10 per day, already reaching more than 160 household members of those referred.

Knowing COVID-19's significant impact on our lowest-income residents, especially those working in lower-wage, front-line roles and often living in crowded housing situations that include multi-generational family members, this deeper support strives to buffer the inequitable burdens that some residents are shouldering, revealing long-standing barriers to health. MHA's bilingual case managers engage trustfully in clients' preferred languages to address needs such as grocery delivery, economic relief and obtaining over-the-counter medications.

The County's pathways to Alternative Housing Sites for those who cannot safely isolate at home are additional critical resources for our most vulnerable populations. The County thanks MHA for its collaboration.

Any resident who learns they are positive and has trouble isolating should call 211 to be connected to the appropriate resources.

More About MHA

Together



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