



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 05-19-20
Placement: D-1
Estimated Time: 30 min
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Office
Director(s): Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Director of Public Health
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO
SUBJECT: Update on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Other Concurrence:

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a brief update on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Santa Barbara County's response and operations;
- b) Receive and file Santa Barbara County Reopening in Safe Environment (RISE) Guide and draft supplemental documents including State and Local Guidance for Industry Sectors and Containment Plan;
- c) Provide any direction, as appropriate; and
- d) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 153378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organizational, administrative or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary

Staff will provide the most recent information on the status of COVID-19 cases and the County's response at the Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Staff has provided updates to the Board on the status of COVID-19 every week since March 10, and has conducted press conferences every weekday. Circumstances and number of cases in the County are

changing daily with the most updated information on the Public Health information portal at <https://publichealthsb.org>.

Staff will present the Santa Barbara County Reopening in Safe Environment (RISE) Guide with supplemental documents for industry sector guidance and a containment plan.

Background

On March 4, 2020, the Governor of California proclaimed a health emergency due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 11, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic.

On March 12, 2020 the Public Health Officer and Public Health Director declared a local health emergency for COVID-19. That same day the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency. At that time, the County did not have any confirmed cases. On March 16, 2020, the Public Health Department reported the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Santa Barbara County. On March 17, 2020, the local declaration and proclamation were ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

On March 19, 2020, the Governor issued Executive N-33-20 which directed “shelter in place” for Californians to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health of residents.

Starting the week of April 27, 2020, the Public Health Department in coordination with the County Executive Office began work on a reopening framework project that was anticipated to several weeks. The project included an engagement with REACH to help facilitate stakeholder outreach and to hold informal roundtable discussions.

Discussion

The County’s objectives in this public health emergency response to COVID-19 are as follows:

1. Flatten the curve – reduce spread of infection and deaths
2. Reduce overload to health care system
3. Protect health care workers and frontline responders
4. Protect other essential workers
5. Assist the most vulnerable affected by the pandemic
6. Assist with economic mitigation, reopening and recovery
7. Inform the public with accurate and timely information

Emergency Operations Center. The response effort is coordinated through the County’s Emergency Operations Center, focused on the Public Health’s efforts to mitigate the infection and reduce an overload to the health care system. The EOC is assisted by the regional Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) and is supporting several teams and task forces on homeless sheltering, vulnerable(senior) populations, donation and volunteer assistance, scarce medical resources and economic and community recovery. The EOC is also spearheading multi-government workforce coordination to provide workers needed in the emergency response effort.

County Department Operations. County departments have activated their Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) and are prioritizing essential services, although other non-essential work also continues. To comply with the Governor’s Executive Order to shelter-in-place, a majority of public counters are closed and alternative methods have been provided for the public to access County services. (A list is available on the County’s website). All County employees are Disaster Service Workers and have been instructed to continue to report to work (on-site or tele-working) unless unable to do so. Departments have been instructed to follow health safety protocols for COVID-19 for any employees on-site.

Human Resources also implemented new leave policies, in anticipation of federal legislation regarding emergency employee sick leave and family leave, and developed an “emergency worker match” program to match employee and mutual aid volunteer skills with needed positions in the response.

Santa Barbara County Reopening in Safe Environment (RISE) Guide. Within the framework of the Governor’s Resilience Roadmap, the County of Santa Barbara has produced a companion guide to support the implementation of the roadmap for phased reopening. The guide was developed by experts who live and work in the region, supported by feedback from all sectors of the community. To create a science-based framework for Santa Barbara County residents, businesses, and organizations by which to reopen in a phased manner while prioritizing public health and protecting our most vulnerable populations. If and when local discretion is permitted by the State, it is anticipated the RISE framework will inform strategy, policy and decision making. The Public Health Officer hosted and directed the development of the RISE Guide. The process included informal stakeholder roundtable discussions with more than 300 participants. Stakeholders included ten community and 17 business industry sectors.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This agenda item is for information and administrative purposes only. There are no current budget impacts associated with this report.

Authored by:

Mona Miyasato, CEO