



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:** 07-14-2020  
**Placement:** D-1  
**Estimated Time:** 1.5 hours  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**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  
Nancy Anderson, Assistant CEO

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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**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) Provide any direction, as appropriate; and
- c) 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, the County's response and RISE business activity 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 weekly. 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>.

## **Discussion**

The Public Health Department continues to work with the state to have real time information regarding the monitoring status of SB County. Public Health is currently working to update the current data dashboard on PublicHealthSBC.org to reflect the state required metrics for testing, case rates, hospitalization rates and hospital capacity. These metrics, in addition to our locally generated data, is intended to provide the community the most up to date information regarding what is occurring on the ground in Santa Barbara County and informs critical public health decisions.

The County Executive Office continues to present an update on RISE Guide changes, business industry activity and outreach efforts. Updates on Self-Certification submittals and participation in other business programs available from the County is also presented.

## **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.

On May 20, 2020, the State approved the County to accelerate through the State’s Stage 2 phase of the Resilience Roadmap. The Public Health Officer has issued Health Orders to accompany the approval by the State and to be consistent with the State industry sector guidance. On June 29, 2020, the County Public Health Officer issued Phased Reopening Within Santa Barbara County - County Health Officer Order 2020-12.2. This order supersedes and replaces Health Officer Order 2020-12.1.

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

1. Monitor and maintain the flattened curve through continued testing, disease monitoring, implementation of isolation, contact tracing, and treatment of COVID-19. Utilize the RISE guidance for evaluation and determination of re-closure of the community if needed.
2. Provide clear and timely situational status, guidance, and support to the health care system to limit the spread of the disease and ensure continuity of essential healthcare services. This includes assuring health worker screenings are conducted, and hospital patient surge and alternate care site plans are ready to activate.
3. Provide clear, coordinated, accurate and timely information through the Joint Information Center (JIC) to the public through social media, call centers and press releases and PSA’s.
4. Maintain timely and accurate situational status to the CEO, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Public Health Department (PHD), County Board of Supervisors (BOS), Operational Area Partners, California Officer of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

5. Monitor and execute plan to support logistical requirements for isolation and quarantine of the public, health care workers, first responders and essential personnel. Monitor logistics plan to provide for ongoing acquisition, warehouse capability, inventory monitoring, and shipment of medical and non-medical resources.
6. Utilize EOC and DOC Logistics processes and plans to provide for ongoing resource support, including scarce resource allocation, isolation and quarantine activities, homelessness NCS, and ACS response.
7. Provide fiscal tracking and accountability and ensure costs appropriate with the values at risk. Facilitate the processes necessary to seek all eligible funding opportunities for reimbursement of response costs, temporary and permanent enhancements of programs as they relate to COVID, and economic recovery programs.
8. Develop and maintain a state of readiness for the potential need to respond to an increase in cases, additional COVID response support concepts, or a concurrent event. This should include concurrent event plans, MOU/MOA's, continuity of operations and government, community education, staff training and EOC facility readiness.
9. Maintain communications, outreach and coordination processes to share timely and accurate guidance with our Operational Area Partners including elected officials, cities, special districts, utilities, nonprofit organizations, and other agencies which provides situational awareness and support. Serve as the means for support and information to our local jurisdictions.
10. Implement strategies that facilitate community support systems, recovery of those systems and economic recovery. Guide business, government, non-profits and the Santa Barbara County community through the RISE process in a safe manner and in accordance with state and local guidance, state and local health orders and the RISE guidance.
11. Provide guidance and support as appropriate to ongoing community support programs for our most vulnerable populations, such as those serving the homeless, low Income, seniors, and COVID-19 high risk, and those who are food insecure. Continue serving as a conduit between Santa Barbara County and the State of California.

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 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.

On April 8, 2020, Santa Barbara County entered into a Unified Command structure with the Public Health Department, Chief Executive Office, Fire Department, and Sheriff's Office. The introduction of Unified Command was in an effort to streamline communication, make additional resources available, and create a more balanced decision making process. Unified Command was sunsetted on June 15, 2020, as command was transferred back to the CEO's Office with the formation of the Joint Decision Making Authority (JDA). The JDA is comprised of members of the Public Health Department, Office of Emergency Management, and the Chief Executive Office. Decisions are then presented to the Chief Executive Officer for final approval.

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.

RISE Business Activity. The County published the Santa Barbara County Reopening in Safe Environment, or RISE Guide on May 15, 2020. Within the framework of the Governor’s Resilience Roadmap, the County of Santa Barbara 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. Additionally, the County has developed a Self-Certification Attestation process on-line for businesses reopening under Stage 2. Businesses are required to be familiar with State Industry Guidelines, County Health Orders and the RISE Guide, complete a plan to comply and self-certify on-line.

In order to minimize the impact of COVID-19, the County of Santa Barbara has encouraged the speedy recovery of businesses, restaurants, retail and other community entities that were required to close or curtail operations under the State of California’s “Stay at Home” orders. The County developed the Small Business and Community Partnership Enhancement Program (SBCPEP), a clear, quick path and parameters for businesses and other entities to operate temporarily outdoors to accommodate social distancing.

- Phase 1 of the program allows operations in the adjacent County roadway rights-of way (sidewalks and roadways) and is administered by County Public Works Department. This phase of the program began on May 20, 2020 through the Director of Emergency Services Emergency Rule #1 for COVID-19 emergency and temporarily authorizes the Santa Barbara County Public Works Director to issue encroachment permits to businesses and community entities that reopen and resume operations in County roadway rights-of-way to allow for adequate social distancing during operations.
- Emergency Rule #1 allows for waiver of the application or monthly lease fee for a special encroachment permit issued pursuant to the rule.
- An amendment to Emergency Rule #1 was issued to make the expiration dates of the fee waiver and the special encroachment permit consistent with the effective date and termination of the emergency rule. The termination of the emergency rule is “until December 16, 2020, or the proclaimed Santa Barbara County Local Emergency from the COVID-19 virus is terminated, whichever is earlier, or unless this Emergency Rule #1 is earlier terminated.”
- Phase 2 of the program allows for operations on adjacent private property, such as parking lots and setbacks, which was approved by the Board on June 16, 2020 and is administered by the County Planning and Community Development Department. Emergency Rule #1 excludes Phase 2 of the program.
- On May 25, 2020, the Director of Emergency Services issued Emergency Rule #2 that temporarily suspends Chapter 35 zoning regulations and permit restrictions related to wineries and tasting rooms serving food. Additionally, Environmental Health Services made available a Covid19 Emergency Food Permit for wineries and breweries that want to serve food, but do not hold a current food permit, may apply for a limited term food permit during the Stage 2 reopening by completing and submitting an application to Environmental Health Services.

**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:**

Nancy Anderson and Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officers