



**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: 6-22-2021
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Mona Miyasato, County Executive Office
Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Director of Public Health

DocuSigned by:
Mona Miyasato
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Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO
Nancy Anderson, 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) 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 15378(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 at the Board of Supervisors’ meeting. On June 8, Santa Barbara County met the yellow tier metrics for two consecutive weeks and moved into the Yellow Tier, effective 8 a.m. on June 9. We are preparing for California’s “Beyond the Blueprint” on June 15 and the County’s reopening plan, which includes County buildings reopening to the public on June 16. All County Buildings, with the exception of the Board Chamber will

reopen to the public. Until further notice, the Board of Supervisor's meetings will continue to be virtual and remote only due to severely limited seating capacity in the Board Chambers as a result of physical distancing requirements under Cal/OSHA guidelines. Circumstances, number of cases in the County, and vaccination updates are changing daily with the most updated information on the Public Health information portal at <https://publichealthsb.org>.

Discussion

Since March 2020, County Public Health has consistently informed the Board of Supervisors and the community at large about the status of the disease of communities, demographics of those impacted, status of health officer orders, status of schools and waivers, state monitoring metrics, hospital beds and ICU capacity, vaccine planning and distribution, guidance and updates from the California Department of Public Health, RISE Guide changes, business industry activity and outreach efforts. On August 28, 2020, the Governor unveiled a coronavirus four-tier, color-monitoring system for counties, which replaced the County Monitoring List.

Timeline of Santa Barbara County Movement through the tiers:

- September 29, 2020: Tier 2 – Substantial/Red
- November 16, 2020: SBC reverted to Tier 1 – Widespread/ Purple
- December 6, 2020: The County as part of the Southern California Region fell below 15% ICU capacity which triggered the Regional Stay at Home Order, which ended on January 25, 2021.
- January 26, 2021: Tier 1 – Widespread/ Purple
- March 16, 2021: Tier 2 – Substantial/ Red
- April 21, 2021: Tier 3 – Moderate/ Orange
- June 8, 2021: Tier 4 – Minimal/ Yellow

COVID-19 vaccination is one of the most important tools to end the COVID-19 pandemic. The State is prioritizing vaccines for equitable distribution to everyone in California who wants it. Current information on the County's vaccination plan is available on the County's website at publichealthsb.org.

Background

Emergency Proclamations and Health Orders. Since March 4, 2020, there has been a number of emergency proclamations and health orders related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). These can be found at: <https://publichealthsb.org/health-officer-orders/>

As of June 8, 2021 the County Public Health Officer issued [County Health Officer Order 2021-12.8](#) that updated information relating to phased reopening into the yellow tier. Movement into the Yellow Tier resulted in increased capacity limits in many indoor operations, with modifications. The State of California is still following the Four-Tier colored system for reopening until June 15, 2021.

On May 21, 2021, California announced the details of the state's full reopening plan "Beyond the Blueprint." When California fully reopens the economy on June 15, 2021, the State will move beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Beginning June 15, 2021, businesses will be able to return to usual operations with limited exceptions for mega events. The updated framework clarifies that physical distancing and capacity limitations will no longer be required for most businesses. Employers are still subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). Cal/OSHA Standards Board approved their updated ETS regulations on June 3, 2021. However, the Standards Board

called an emergency meeting June 9, 2021 related to the revised regulations approved on June 3, that were to be effective June 15 and continued to require face coverings and physical distancing. The Board voted to reverse the approval of those revised regulations.

County's response and objectives. The County developed a list of objectives in response to the public health emergency. The list of objectives can be found in [Board Letter](#) from May 4, 2021.

Vaccines. Local vaccine distribution updates are available on the Public Health website at <https://publichealthsb.org/vaccine/>. The Santa Barbara County Health Department will continue to follow guidelines from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to prioritize vaccine distribution. Additional information on the vaccine distribution plan can be found at publichealthsb.org.

As of April 1, Governor Newsome expanded vaccine eligibility to all Californians 50+ as of April 1, 2021 and to all Californians ages 16+ as of April 15, 2021. Santa Barbara County opened vaccine eligibility to all residents ages 16 and older as of April 5, 2021 at the Public Health Community Vaccination clinics. On March 28, 2021, the County began the rotating vaccine clinics as part of the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program, with clinics rotating in the cities of Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara County currently has mobile vaccination clinics where all Californians ages 16+ may be vaccinated. Santa Barbara County vaccination clinics are now accepting walk-ins for all who wish to receive the vaccine. Mobile vaccination clinic information can be found at: <https://publichealthsb.org/vaccine/>.

Emergency Operations Center. The response effort is coordinated through the Public Health Department's Department Operations Center (DOC), with support from the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) focused on mitigating the spread of COVID-19, reducing the potential overload to the health care system and reopening the community in a safe manner. The EOC closed the call center operations on May 28, 2021 as a result in significant decrease in call volume. Additional information on the EOC, including education and compliance, can be found in [Board Letter](#) from May 4, 2021.

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. 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 and are currently planning for "Beyond the Blueprint" after June 15. County buildings will reopen to the public on June 16, with the exception of the Board of Supervisors meetings, which will continue to remain virtual and remote until further notice.

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 (now Blueprint for a Safer Economy). With the move "Beyond the Blueprint, on June 15, the RISE program will end, but the recoverybc.org site will remain up to date with resources for local businesses.

Response Costs and Funding.

On March 6, 2021, the federal government approved an additional stimulus package for COVID19 relief entitled the American Rescue Plan Act. Included in the \$1.9 trillion package was \$350 billion in direct funding to states, territories, tribes, counties and municipalities, \$10 billion for coronavirus capital projects, and \$1.5 billion over two years for revenue sharing counties. Santa Barbara County's direct allocation was approximately \$86.6 million. In addition to direct funding to local governments, the

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American Rescue Plan Act increased funding for various programs available for small businesses, created several new programs to aid small business, and provided various funding avenues for residents. Business resources that came out of ARPA can be found at: recoverysbc.org.

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:

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