



**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: 5-18-2021
Placement: D-1
Estimated Time: 1 hour
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

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, the County’s response and RISE business activity at the Board of Supervisors’ meeting. Santa Barbara County remains in the Orange Tier for reopening and is preparing for California’s “Beyond the Blueprint” on June 15. 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. The County Executive Office continues to present an update on 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 Santa Barbara County remains in the Orange Tier.

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, April 21, 2021 the County Public Health Officer issued [County Health Officer Order 2021-12.7](#), that updated information relating to phased reopening into the orange tier. Movement into the Orange Tier resulted in increased capacity limits in many indoor operations, with modifications. As of May 4, 2021, SBC remains in the Orange Tier. In addition, On April 27, 2021, CDC issued new guidance for fully vaccinated individuals and the use of masks.

State Monitoring: Four-Tier System. The State of California is still following the Four-Tier colored system for reopening. Every county is assigned a tier based on its test positivity and adjusted case rate. To move forward, a county must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks. If a county's metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned a more restrictive tier. Data is reviewed weekly and tiers are updated statewide on Tuesdays.

On April 6, 2021, California reached its second Statewide Vaccine Equity Metric Goal to administer 4 million doses to persons living in the Vaccine Equity Quartile, and tier case rate ranges have changed for the Red, Orange and Yellow tiers. The Blueprint has been updated to reflect ranges of 6-10, 2-5.9, and less than 2 cases per 100,000 for the Red, Orange, and Yellow tiers, respectively. The tables below reflect the new metric tier thresholds.

On April 6, CDPH announced “Beyond the Blueprint” for a Safer Economy where on June 15, 2021, California will fully open its economy if the two criteria listed below are met:

- 1) Equitable vaccine availability: if vaccine supply is sufficient for Californians 16 years or older who wish to be vaccinated, and
- 2) Consistently low burden of disease: hospitalizations are stable and low, and specifically, hospitalizations among fully vaccinated individuals are low.

On June 15, all industries across the state can return to usual operations with common-sense risk reduction measures such as masking and vaccinations if the criteria is met.

On April 13, 2021, the State added an addendum to the Blueprint Sector Chart which addressed several things for industry/sectors, including how to address vaccinated-only sections for industries that have capacity bonuses for testing/vaccination only sections; capacity bonuses for other sectors that may not have them already included in either the Blueprint chart or their guidance themselves; and verification of testing and fully-vaccinated. Because CA has 4 million vaccine doses administered in HPI quartile 1, the chart below also reflects the metrics to move through tiers.

Blueprint Tier Framework Thresholds Upon Meeting Statewide Vaccine Equity Metric Goals

Doses administered in the Vaccine Equity Quartile (statewide)	Tier 1 Widespread (Purple)	Tier 2 Substantial (Red)	Tier 3 Moderate (Orange)	Tier 4 Minimal (Yellow)
Less than 2 million doses administered	Case Rate > 7	Case Rate 4 - 7	Case Rate 1 - 3.9	Case Rate < 1
Goal #1: 2 Million administered	Case Rate > 10	Case Rate 4 - 10	Case Rate 1 - 3.9	Case Rate < 1
Goal #2: 4 Million doses administered	Case Rate > 10	Case Rate 6 - 10	Case Rate 2 - 5.9	Case Rate < 2

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 is coordinating the Joint Information Center (JIC), 2-1-1 resources, RISE Ambassadors, and an expanded Compliance and Code Enforcement Strategy. The JIC is providing a multiple pronged approach to public communications including the Public Health website (<https://publichealthsb.org/>), the Santa Barbara County Recovers (<https://recoverybc.org/>), social media, media relations, and direct community outreach materials. 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.

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), the County of Santa Barbara produced a companion guide to support the implementation of the roadmap for phased reopening. State Industry Guidelines, County Health Orders and the RISE Guide are available at recoverybc.org.

Response Costs and Funding. On February 16, 2021, the County of Santa Barbara began offering more than \$13 million in federal Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance through United Way of Santa Barbara County to eligible County of Santa Barbara residents that have experienced a loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and can demonstrate the need for rental support. More information can be found at: <https://www.unitedwaysb.org/rent>.

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 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: recoverybc.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.

Attachment:

Attachment A State Industry Sectors by Tier

Authored by:

Nancy Anderson and Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officers