

CITYWIDE UPDATE AUGUST 8TH

Mayor, Council and City Employees:

Please find several updates below. Enjoy your weekend.

Isolation Housing: This week, staff worked to support County Health's efforts to secure the entire Roadway Inn to serve as isolation housing for vulnerable populations, including agricultural workers.

Underreporting Cases: Due to a technical error, the electronic lab reporting system used by the state and the county is significantly under reporting current cases. There is no indication of when this error will be resolved. Current COVID dashboards are not accurate as a result.

Outbreaks at South County Farms: County Health is reporting three outbreaks at farms/agricultural sites in the South County area. An outbreak is defined as 3 or more cases within a 2 week period. We are following this development closely and working with both the Ag Commissioner and County Health to provide support where needed and doubling communication and education efforts. It is believed the exposures occurred through person-to-person contact on personal time.

Testing: State funding for the Ramsay testing site was just renewed through the end of September. Appointment availability has also improved over the past few weeks. There's a new Federally funded drive through testing site on the westside too, that hasn't been widely advertised yet. Through an \$805,000 purchase of additional laboratory equipment for the UCSC Molecular Diagnostic Lab, local testing capacity should increase to 600-800 tests per day once fully operational. The partnership will help address increased transmission in the community, and make Santa Cruz County more self-sufficient in its response through increased testing capacity and more rapid diagnosis.

Housing Update: In light of the Judicial Council's recent decision to allow eviction protections to expire, combined with the expiration of the supplemental unemployment benefits and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), staff met with the Housing Task Force and the Rental Advocacy Group this week to discuss next steps to ensure necessary measures are in place to protect renters and keep people housed during this pandemic. Staff had committed to Council that if the regulatory landscape changed, we would return with the option of restoring the eviction moratorium protections. The moratorium decision will come before the Council in August. This direction was discussed with both housing stakeholder groups and the following concerns were raised:

- Requirement for tenants to provide documentation to landlords proving that the tenant has been impacted by COVID-19
- Impact of continued non-payment of rent on landlords, lack of protections against foreclosure for landlords
- Allowance of landlords to pursue eviction of tenants that are bad actors during the moratorium

In addition to the moratorium, we are exploring establishing another emergency housing assistance program with some of the COVID stimulus funding.

Youth Sports Update: This Monday, the California Department of Public Health released limited [interim guidance](#) on the restart of youth sports. This guidance allows for the following:

"Youth sports and physical education are permitted only when the following can be maintained: (1) physical distancing of at least six feet; and (2) a stable cohort, such as a class, that limits the risks of transmission (see CDC Guidance on Schools and Cohorting). Activities should take place outside to the maximum extent practicable.

"For sports that cannot be conducted with sufficient distancing or cohorting, only physical conditioning and training is permitted and ONLY where physical distancing can be maintained.

Conditioning and training should focus on individual skill-building (e.g., running drills and body weight resistance training) and should take place outside, where practicable."

Accordingly, we are working with our volunteer competitive soccer coaches to develop protocols and schedules to run conditioning and training practices. We anticipate starting in the next couple of weeks at Ramsay Park.

Excel in Place: Representing a partnership between the City of Watsonville's Parks and Community Services, PAL, Public Works and Library Departments and Santa Cruz County Parks, we are excited to announce the "Excel In Place" out-of-school time program for youth ages 5-12! See attached flyer.

The program will provide distance learning support, active games, arts and crafts, recreational enrichment activities, field trips, etc.

In order to maximize safety, implementation of youth programming during the COVID-19 event has been designed in close collaboration with the County Health Officer and will operate in strict accordance with CDC COVID-19 guidance and recommendations, following the social distancing, sanitation, and hygiene practices described in the following

link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>.

Dates: August 24 - December 18

Stay Active with the Mayor: Join us on [Facebook Live](#) every Wednesday and Friday at 9am for free Zumba classes! Led by well known instructor Arove, this action packed workout is fun for all levels of fitness. We will go live from the Parks and Community Services page on [Facebook](#). Flyer attached.

Library Strategic Plan: Penny Hummel, our library strategic plan consultant, will present the draft to the Library Board on August, 20th at 6pm. Input from the board will be included. She will then meet with Library Staff on August 21st at 10am to review the implementation of the strategic plan. Once the plan is finalized; it will be approved by the Library Board and presented to council for approval in September.

e-magazine Database: The library received a grant through Pacific Library Partnership for a free one-year subscription to Flipster; an online e-magazine database. These 25 highly read e-magazines will be readily available on the library website via a carousel for ease of browsing and checkout.

Extension of Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Social Equity: The application period for participating on the Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Social Equity has been extended to August 14th. There are 12 positions on the ad hoc committee reserved for community members. 16 applications have been received to date. Please help spread the word. Here's a link to the application: <https://cityofwatsonville.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=995&fbclid=IwAR0mOblAqrdOq04L3sw5srxrnSkP96wr7NfYxVyYsGPeYKfAoQKL6IKiSc>

Matt