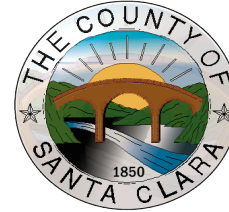


County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Executive

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DATE: May 11, 2022

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Martha Wapenski, Deputy County Executive

SUBJECT: Off-agenda report detailing ongoing COVID-19 strategies, baseline capacity levels, roles of local system partners, and projections regarding baseline funding levels to maintain core capacities in surveillance, testing, vaccination outreach

This off-agenda report provides information on COVID-19 strategies in advance of the May 16, 2022 Budget Workshop.

On March 8, 2022 (Item No. 8), the Board approved a referral from Supervisor Ellenberg that directed Administration to report to the Board prior to the May 2022 Budget Workshop relating to a plan detailing ongoing COVID-19 strategies, baseline capacity levels, roles of local system partners, and any projections regarding baseline funding levels to maintain core capacities in surveillance, testing, vaccination outreach, and other needs; and, core activities and a base budget for the next Fiscal Year.

On March 22, 2022 (Item No. 56), the Board approved a referral from Supervisor Ellenberg that directed Administration to report to the Board prior to the June 2022 Budget Hearing relating to a detailed plan regarding ongoing strategies, baseline capacity levels, the roles of local system partners, and projection of baseline funding levels to maintain core capacities in surveillance, testing, vaccination, and outreach.

Ongoing strategies and the role of local system partners:

The County is working to continue to provide testing and vaccination opportunities for County residents, while also taking steps to inform patients of their rights to get tested from their healthcare provider and to motivate patients' primary providers to provide vaccination and testing services.

The County Health Officer's January 31, 2022 Testing Order requires that healthcare facilities offer testing to patients within 24 hours of a request if they are symptomatic, were a close contact to a positive case, or if the County Public Health Department or California Department of Public Health recommends or requires that they receive testing. The Testing Order also mandates that healthcare facilities take specified steps to alert patients that they have a right to obtain testing from their healthcare providers. For instance, healthcare providers with healthcare facilities in the county have sent emails to every one of their primary care patients that includes the text of the patient testing notice (PTN) available at www.sccgov.org/covidtestingnotice, and have posted the PTN in every waiting room, exam room, and treatment room at healthcare facilities. The Business Compliance Unit has been enforcing the Testing Order since it issued. The County has also taken steps to ensure that patients are aware of testing options outside of the County's own system. For example, the sccfreetest.org website and the website to schedule a test at a county site have been re-designed to highlight options available from healthcare providers, and the County system's notification when a patient receives testing results now includes a notice advising patients that they may obtain their next test from their own health system.

Baseline capacity levels:

The County is operating testing sites at the County Fairgrounds, the San Martin Animal Shelter, Valley Specialty Center, VHC Gilroy, and a rotating city team that provides testing within cities throughout the county. The Public Health Department also works with the California Department of Public Health to site locations for OptumServe testing available to County residents. The County is also operating vaccination sites at the Mountain View Community Center, the County Fairgrounds, and in San Martin. Since the height of Omicron, the demand for testing has decreased significantly as has the demand for vaccinations and boosters. Total daily patient encounters at the County-operated vaccination and testing sites in the community went from over 10,000 in January 2022 to 1,500-2,000 in March 2022. The sites are being designed with the ability for additional capacity if there are additional surges in the future that require increased testing and vaccination as shots become available for those under five and as boosters are encouraged for those over five.

Projection of baseline funding levels to maintain core capacities in surveillance, testing, vaccination, and outreach

The Administration has analyzed past expenses and is recommending an appropriation of \$100 million in the COVID fund as part of the FY 22-23 Recommended Budget in order to ensure there is reasonable funding available for FEMA eligible expenses, since FEMA reimbursements take a considerable amount of time and would be received in future Fiscal Years. Additionally, funding for a position and \$1,000,000 in contract services for the Public Health Department is included in the FY 22-23 Recommended

Budget to conduct daily wastewater surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses. Another \$35 million is included for testing and vaccinations as part of the FY 22-23 Recommended Budget within the budget for the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Community outreach is being led by the Public Health Department and utilizing multi-year grants from the Centers for Disease Control to fund that work.

cc: Chief Board Aides

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