

State Begins Rollout of COVID-19 Vaccine

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DAVE CORTESE

REPRESENTING STATE SENATE DISTRICT 15

With the FDA approving Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and a scheduled vaccine producer, Moderna, set to meet with the FDA later this week, the State has begun to detail its initial plans for a safe and effective rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 VACCINE AT A GLANCE

- Validated by the nation's top medical experts to be safe and effective
- Health care workers and residents in long-term care will be the first to be vaccinated
- Provided at no cost
- Phased distribution plan based on risk and level of exposure
- Widely available later in 2021

**STAY INFORMED.
KEEP WEARING YOUR MASK.**

covid19.ca.gov/vaccines

Vaccinate **ALL 58**

Governor Newsom announced that California has already received 33,150 doses of the state's initial vaccine allocation of 327,000 doses. We are expecting an additional 393,900 doses from Pfizer next week and another 627,000 doses from Moderna, pending approval from the FDA, by the end of this calendar year.

Santa Clara County has been informed that they will receive 17,000 doses this week from Pfizer and another 39,300 from Moderna, pending

approval, in late December. The regional distribution of these initial 327,000 doses throughout California's 58 counties can be found [here](#).

The CDC's "Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices" is the primary body in charge of deciding the prioritization of who will receive these vaccines first and they have confirmed that healthcare workers, emergency medical services providers, and residents in long-term care facilities will be given first priority.

Although the next priority group is still being decided, the state has made it clear that those at higher risk will receive vaccines first. Engagement with community groups and stakeholders is currently being conducted to guide the rest of the distribution and ensure a fair, equitable, and culturally competent process.

The vaccines will be available at no cost and two doses given 21 days apart is proven to be 95% effective.

It is important to keep in mind that, even with a vaccine right around the corner, we must still remember to stay vigilant in adhering to the COVID-19 Public Health Orders this holiday season and into the new year. As Governor Gavin Newsom puts it, "There is a light at the end of the tunnel - but we are still in the tunnel."

To learn more, watch the full 12/15 briefing from Governor Gavin Newsom at [this link](#) and visit [covid19.ca.gov/vaccines](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Vaccines.aspx) for the latest updates.

Greetings From My New Post



As you may have heard, my term on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has ended and I have been sworn in as your California State Senator representing District 15. District 15 encompasses much of Santa Clara County, including the cities of Campbell, Los Gatos, Cupertino, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, and much of San Jose, stretching from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west and Mountain Hamilton Range to the east.

Although my position has changed, my commitment to serving the residents of this community has never been stronger. You can rest assured that my new office will continue to provide services to individuals and families during this pandemic. To speak to me regarding inquires and concerns, or to request assistance, please continue to reach out to me in my new role at Senator.Cortese@sen.ca.gov.

I am excited to get to work and continue to be grateful for the opportunity to make positive change for our community and beyond. This year, in particular, I am thankful for the partnership of those in the community that have stepped up to keep us safe during this unprecedented health crisis and historic wildfire season, including our essential workers, frontline heroes, healthcare workers, volunteers, and community-based agencies. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you!

Senate District 15: In the News

Building Decarbonization Package for California: After being sworn-in as your California State Senator last week, I introduced a bold plan to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in new construction statewide that includes decarbonization targets, programs, and assistance to local government. This legislative package contains four climate resiliency bills that will revolutionize California's building and construction sector which accounts for roughly 40% of our carbon emissions, including the first bill in history that asks the State to divest from projects that are not zero-emission. Silicon Valley has proven that decarbonized, all-electric buildings cost less to build, require less infrastructure, and provide more value to builders as well as customers.



California must commit to the rapid decarbonization of our buildings to remain a global leader in the face of our climate crisis. Read more about this plan at [this link](#) and read coverage of this announcement in [San Jose Spotlight](#) and the [San Francisco Chronicle](#).

Cortese to Chair Senate Labor Committee: Thank you to President pro Tempore of the California Senate, Toni Atkins, who yesterday announced that I will serve as Chair of the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee. Of the 23 committees in the California Senate, the Labor Committee is tasked with analyzing bills that affect workers, ranging from issues such as workers' safety, compensation, insurance, and unemployment as well as bills relating to public employees. As chair of the Senate Labor Committee, my top priority will be continuing my efforts to ensure workers are provided essential benefits, a living wage, and safe working conditions, even in the face of unprecedented political and economic pressure during this pandemic. I am also pleased to announce that I will be serving on the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, the Education Committee, the Housing Committee, the Transportation Committee, and the Human Services Committee.

Launch of California's Largest Private Fund for Extremely Low-Income Housing: As co-chair of the "Measure A" affordable housing bond campaign that has produced 27 housing projects in Santa Clara County, with many more in the pipeline, I'd like to thank Facebook, the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), and Destination: Home for launching California's largest private fund for extremely low-income (ELI) housing and setting aside at least \$50 million, or one third of this fund, to go towards the development of Measure A projects. This fund will go a long way in our efforts to address homelessness during the age of COVID-19. Read coverage of this announcement in [San Jose Spotlight](#) and learn more [here](#).

Staying Safe This Holiday Season

As cold weather drives people indoors, we have seen the rate of COVID-19 cases rise throughout the state. It is, of course, tempting to want to spend time with your loved ones this holiday season, but please remember that any activity outside of your household increases your chance of exposure to the virus. This is why the California Public Health Department and our Santa Clara County Public Health Officer currently prohibit residents in our county from [gathering](#) with those outside of their household (except outdoor religious services, political events, and cultural ceremonies of up to 100 people).

This week, California announced the statewide launch of [CA Notify](#), a smartphone application aimed at reducing transmission of COVID-19 through exposure notifications. Californians can opt in to receive notifications if smart phone data indicates they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus. Learn more [here](#).

COVID-19 By the Numbers in California



Positivity Rate for California:

California's positivity rate is a key indicator of community spread. As of 12/14, the 7-day positivity rate is 10.6% and the 14-day positivity rate is 10.5%.

Nationwide COVID-19 Numbers (reported by the Center for Disease Control):

As of 12/14, there have been:

- 16,113,148 total positive cases, with 181,032 new cases reported from the prior day.
- 298,266 total deaths, with 1,448 new deaths reported.

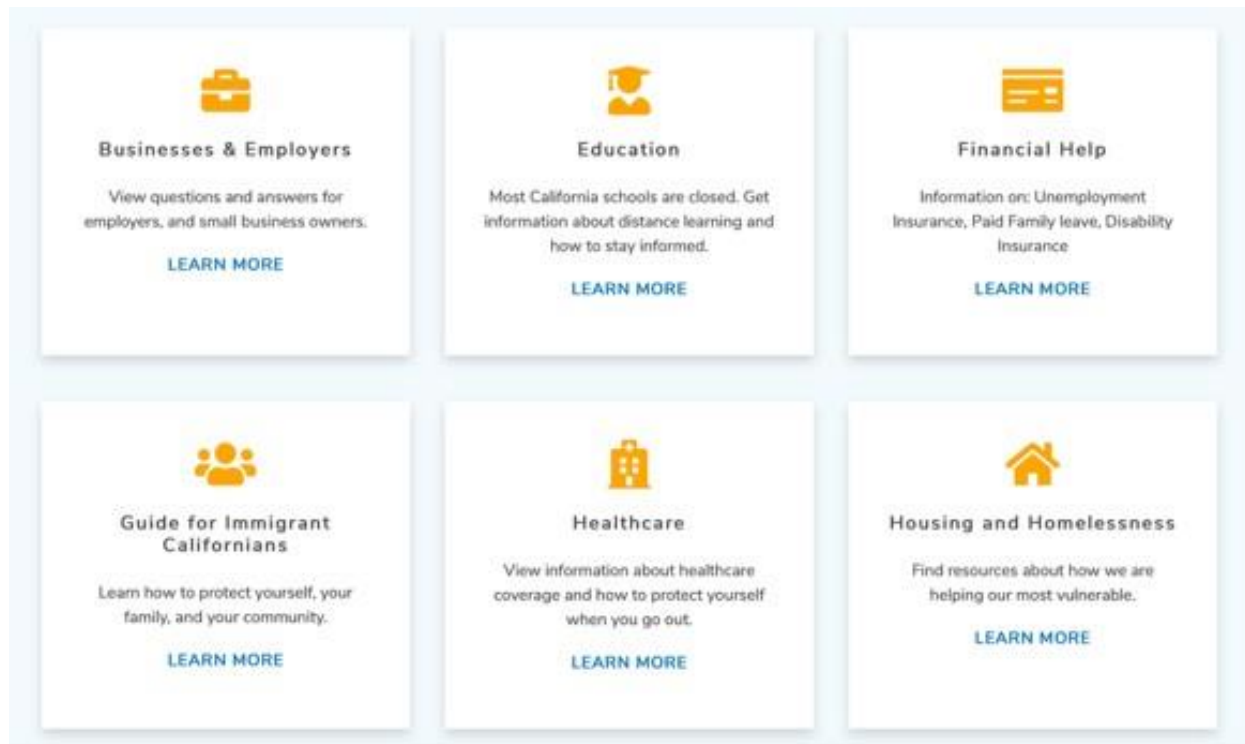
For more COVID-19 data provided by the CDC, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations in Santa Clara County

The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department announced 23 new deaths from COVID-19 last week, bringing the total number of deaths to 529 in Santa Clara County. Just under 7,600 new cases were reported last week, a 65% increase in new cases compared with the previous week. The total case count has now reached 49,216 with a 7-day rolling average of new cases (based on specimen collection date) at 986 cases per

day (up from 497 the week prior). As of December 14th, there were 491 COVID positive patients hospitalized in Santa Clara County (up from 319 last week). More data can be found through the Santa Clara County Public Health Department's [Data Dashboards](#).

State Resources Posted on SD 15 Website



State resources and services available during the pandemic have been posted on my new website: sd15.sen.ca.gov. Just click on the "COVID-19" link under the "Resources" tab of my website to get connected to some of the most frequently used state resources, including resources for businesses and employers, students, those in need of housing and financial assistance, and more. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns. I can be reached at senator.cortese@sen.ca.gov.

Thank you,

Dave Cortese