



CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Statement from Mayor Regina Wallace-Jones Regarding the City's Response to COVID-19

East Palo Alto, CA, (March 12, 2020) – As the world continues grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, I want the East Palo Alto community to know that your city government is hard at work taking the necessary precautions to protect our community.

Currently, the City has taken measures that focus on preventing the spread of the virus, as well as, protecting populations that are most vulnerable in the event the virus does enter East Palo Alto. Some of the actions we have taken are as follows:

- By agreement with the Senior Center Management, they will close the facility for one week until further information is gathered.
- Arrangements are being made for the delivery of senior citizen meals.
- On a case- by- case basis, we are minimizing public gatherings that have over 50+ attendees and/or include vulnerable populations.
- Procurement of pandemic mitigation equipment essential for EPA personnel.
- The City has increased its cleaning of public areas, bathrooms, offices, equipment, and anything under the City's jurisdiction.
- To support the City's increased cleaning efforts, the City has hired a contractor to supplement current cleaning efforts.
- Minimizing of contact with the public for essential city personnel (public safety).
- Establishment of Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for city staff.
- Daily briefings with regional emergency management staff.

Although not an exhaustive list, it is demonstrative of how seriously we have taken the COVID-19 pandemic.

As your mayor, I care deeply about your well-being, and ask you to please take the guidelines provided to our community by the San Mateo County Health Department seriously. As the medical experts guiding our county through this crisis, their advice is science based and intended to save lives. This is not the time to question the practices they have recommended, as not doing so may put your health at risk of illness or even death.

As the facts of this global pandemic continue to change, you have my commitment that I will keep you informed of the actions that we are taking as a city.

Additionally, we will continue working with the San Mateo County Health Department, the Ravenswood City School District, San Mateo County Libraries, amongst others in order to ensure that we are leveraging resources and information.

As mayor, the safety and well-being of our community is my top priority. Know that your city government will do everything in its power to attempt to mitigate our city's exposure to COVID-19.

If you feel you have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, please contact your physician, or the San Mateo County Health Department at 2-1-1.