



## CITY COUNCIL 2020

RICHARD GARBARINO, MAYOR  
MARK ADDIEGO, VICE MAYOR  
KARYL MATSUMOTO, COUNCILMEMBER  
MARK NAGALES, COUNCILMEMBER  
BUENAFLOR NICOLAS, COUNCILMEMBER

MIKE FUTRELL, CITY MANAGER

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear South San Francisco residents and businesses owners,

The City of South San Francisco is closely monitoring the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), which is causing an outbreak of respiratory illness throughout the world. This outbreak began in early December, 2019, near the city of Wuhan, China, and continues to expand in scope and magnitude. The City is coordinating with the San Mateo County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to obtain the most current guidance related to COVID-19. The CDC is the lead agency within the United States Government tasked with responding to the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by COVID-19. As of March 4, 2020, there are two reported cases of COVID-19 in San Mateo County.

I want to assure all residents and business owners that the City is fully prepared to respond should a case arise in South San Francisco. The City and its Police and Fire Departments remain engaged and prepared to respond to the COVID – 19 virus. In an effort to continually prepare for a variety of potential public safety issues, steps have been taken to ensure our first responders have the equipment and training needed to respond to not only this virus, but influenza and other transmissible diseases. Our public safety departments remain in contact with the San Mateo County Health Department and are referencing updates from the Center for Disease (CDC) in real time. While the threat to public health is believed to be low, we remain prepared for a different outcome.

In addition to our local preparedness efforts, the County of San Mateo and its Office of Emergency Services (OES) are coordinating their actions with the San Mateo County Health Department, the California Office of Emergency Services, and the CDC. As a precaution, OES is activating their emergency operations center, which allows OES to accelerate emergency planning, enhance coordination, and possibly seek funding reimbursement from both the State and Federal governments. This action will also provide more timely information to South San Francisco, and all communities in San Mateo County. The City will continue to monitor this issue and if any substantial updates are released, or additional action is required, you will be updated.

### **Help prevent the spread of COVID-19:**

While the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to remain healthy and prevent this virus from spreading. **The CDC is recommending preparedness, not panic.** We encourage everyone to take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases, including common illnesses like colds and flu.

- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your face, particularly your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
- Check out the following information on handwashing and hygiene:

- [CDC Videos for proper handwashing techniques](#)
- [CDC General Handwashing Information](#)
- The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- If you feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, and have traveled to China, Italy, or Iran, or were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the 14 days before you began to feel sick, seek medical care. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

Stay informed – San Mateo County's Health Department offers facts and updates about the novel Coronavirus at the following link: <https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus>. The CDC is also updating its website daily with the latest information and advice for the public (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

Although no confirmed cases of COVID-19 has been reported in the City of South San Francisco, please keep in mind that we are still in the middle of peak flu season. The community is urged to practice preventative hygiene to keep themselves, as well as others from becoming sick. In addition, in partnership with the San Mateo County Health Department, the City will engage all staff in taking precautionary efforts to ensure the safety and health of its employees, and by extension, the residents of South San Francisco.

Sincerely,



Richard Garbarino  
Mayor