



SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 17 (07/17/2020)

Hello Benicia, Fairfield and Vallejo,

Welcome to my most recent coronavirus update. If I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance. I can be reached at 707-784-3031 or at mebrown@solanocounty.com.

As you probably heard, we are experiencing a surge in the number of coronavirus cases. The Governor's order shutting down many indoor businesses in counties on the watchlist has been extended to all counties. All over California, we are seeing the surge in cases driven largely by private gatherings. It is of the utmost importance that we not have large gatherings at our homes during this crisis. The reason private gatherings at homes have been the driver is because masks are not worn, and social distancing is not practiced. Please, do not have large gatherings in your home during this pandemic.

I regret to inform you that we have seen more deaths from coronavirus in Solano County since my last update. It is always difficult to announce that we have lost more Solano residents to Covid-19. My heart goes out to their families. Please honor their memory by taking all necessary steps to stop the spread of Covid-19.

REOPENING SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA

The Governor announced today (July 17, 2020) that schools in counties on the watchlist (which Solano County is) would not reopen to in person learning until they met certain criteria. This means that Solano County's schools will most likely be operating via distance learning when they reopen this fall.

As a retired teacher, I understand this issue and it is personal to me. I know my fellow teachers want to be back in the classroom with their students. I know all of us want to get back to a sense of normalcy. However, with the rise in coronavirus cases throughout the state and specifically in Solano County, we must continue to do distance learning. The safety of our students, teachers, school workers and community are of the utmost importance.

**Important Numbers
Resources and
Dates**

District 2 Office

(707) 784-3031

**Clerk of the Board
& County
Administrator's
Office**

(707) 784-6100

Veterans Services

(707) 784-6590

**Health &
Social Services**

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

**Resource
Management**

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

**Tax
Collector/Treasurer
/County Clerk**

(707) 784-7485

Reopening schools right now would cause a huge outbreak of the virus in our community. Until we can safely reopen the schools, we must continue to do distance learning. For more information, please visit: <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

U.S. Social Security

(800) 772-1213

TESTING

To be blunt, there is insufficient testing for Covid-19 to meet the need for testing in the community. Demand for testing has soared during the last few weeks because of the surge in cases. The Governor recently announced a prioritization for testing. I wrote to the Governor to express that I do not agree with prioritizing testing.

Community-wide testing is a crucial component to overcoming Covid-19. Every person who wants a test must be able to easily access a test at no cost. Knowing who has Covid-19 in the community will allow us to ask them to quarantine, track who they have been in contact with and find who may have been exposed and get them tested.

The state has provided the testing sites in Solano County. This has been at no cost to the county. I will be asking the county to provide the supervisors with options on what we can do about testing. I also sent a letter to Senator Bill Dodd and Assemblymembers Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Jim Frazier and Tim Grayson asking for them to advocate for accessible and free community testing.

We are now testing about 1,100 people a day in Solano County. Even at that rate, we do not have enough capacity. As of the last time I checked (Thursday July 16th), no appointments were available within 50 miles of Benicia, Fairfield and Vallejo. All appointments for the appointment window are filled. I will continue to advocate that we expand testing availability for our community. It is extremely important that the state expand testing capacity for our community.

CORONAVIRUS STATISTICS

The county has added the positivity rate to the dashboard. Currently, Solano County is at an 8.4% positive rate. This means that for every 100 people tested, 8.4 are positive. This number is going in the wrong direction. We must do everything we can to stop the spread of the virus (wear a face covering).

In addition to increased positives, we are seeing increased hospitalizations. This indicates that expanded testing alone does not explain for the surge in coronavirus cases. If testing were the only reason, the newly discovered cases would be asymptomatic and would not be in the hospital. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for us to stop the spread of the virus.

For more information about the county's Covid-19 statistics, please visit: <https://doitgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=055f81e9fe154da5860257e3f2489d67>

VOTING DURING CORONAVIRUS

The surge in our numbers comes as we enter the November election. It is extremely important that everyone can cast their vote safely and conveniently. A law state law was passed this year that will require sending every voter a ballot by mail that can be mailed back in. In Solano County, 76% of our voters already receive a ballot by mail. However, voters are not required to use the ballot that is mailed to them.

The options for voting in the upcoming November election are: (1) Return your ballot by mail. (2) Drop your ballot off at one of the voting centers or designated ballot drop-off locations. (2) Download a ballot and print it at home then mail it, fax it or drop it off at a drop-off location. (3) You can request to vote curbside at your polling place from your vehicle. A poll worker will come out to your car with your ballot and securely deposit it for you after your fill it out. You can also bring your mail in ballot to your polling place on election day and a poll worker can come out to your car and get your mail in ballot for you. (4) You can drop off your ballot at any polling place in the county on election day. (5) If you prefer the traditional same-day voting experience, you may go to your polling place, receive a ballot and vote that day at the polling place. Social distancing and masks will be used with this option as well as all health and safety guidelines.

In every election previously, I voted at the polls. I enjoyed the experience of going to my local polling place, seeing my fellow community members and casting my ballot surrounded by my neighbors. It was always a fun experience. However, given the Covid-19 situation, I may decide to use a different option. Rather than standing in line, most likely I will fill out my mail-in ballot and drop it off at my local polling place on election day.

If you are in the high-risk group such as over 65 (I am) or with a serious medical condition, you may want to consider avoiding going to the polls this year. Our coronavirus numbers are only going up and we should avoid gathering as much as possible.

For more information, visit: http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rov/november_3_2020_presidential_general_election/default.asp

WEAR A MASK CAMPAIGN

The Governor recently launched a campaign to encourage people to wear masks. The CDC director recently stated that if everyone used masks when around other people, we would have the Covid-19 crisis under control in a month or two.

It is extremely important that we all wear face coverings when we are in public. Please do your part to help keep our community safe. For more information about the campaign, please visit: https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/07/02/governor-newsom-launches-wear-a-mask-public-awareness-campaign-in-response-to-surge-in-covid-19-cases/?utm_source=Dem+Caucus+Internal+Staff&utm_campaign=58e3ae1389-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_07_07_06_50&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0978ec992d-58e3ae1389-93694431

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) SOLANO COUNTY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in volunteering with NAMI to distribute holiday gift bags to agencies that support adults with mental illness, please contact Sunny Bradford at namisunny2020@gmail.com or call 707-439-5519.

CALTRANS OPEN HOUSE ON HIGHWAY 37

Caltrans and partners invite you to attend a virtual scoping open house to learn more about the Proposed SR 37 Traffic Congestion Relief Project. Attendees will be able to ask questions about the material presented during the meeting; however, all scoping comments must be submitted in writing by email or mail. Attendance at the virtual open house is not required to submit comments.

There has been discussion about making Highway 37 a toll road. I am opposed to that proposal. This is a chance to ask your questions.

For more information, go to <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-projects/d4-37-corridor-projects>

CALTRANS INTERSTATE 80 SIX BRIDGE PROJECT IN VALLEJO INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Caltrans will hold a townhall meeting on July 29th starting at 4:30 via zoom. This will be about the bridge project in Vallejo. For more information, visit: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-projects/d4-vallejo-80-six-bridges-elevate>

PLAN BAY AREA 2050

Plan Bay Area 2050 is a blueprint for housing production in the Bay Area. There will be information meetings held and discussions around the blueprint. For more information, visit: <https://www.planbayarea.org/>

Thank you for reading my most recent update. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any help to you. Stay safe and spread kindness.

Sincerely,

Monica Brown,

Solano County Supervisor, District 2.



First elected in 2016, Monica represents District 2 on the Solano County Board of Supervisors. District 2 encompasses the city of Benicia, the portion of Vallejo south of Georgia Street, Mare Island, Cordelia, Green Valley and a portion of Fairfield.



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