



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

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DISTRICT 37

COVID-19 SANTA BARBARA TELE-TOWNHALL (03-19-20)

SB has a user-friendly platform

www.publichealthsb.org

- Informing the public on daily statistics, breaking news, daily status reports.
- Informing providers to build their capacity and be our partners in this.
- Any new guidance from the state and federal.
- Any local health orders.
- The number of cases in SB county is a moving target, it is changing quickly.
- There are 9 confirmed case. 6 in North County and 3 in South County.
- Over 70 with underline medical conditions and above 75 are sheltered in place:
 - o Grocery shopping
 - o Medical care
 - o Outdoor activities
 - o Other essential work for public employees
- Begging restricting facilities to closure of restaurants, bars, nightclubs and coffee shops.
- Only food pick up.

Questions & Answers:

Q: When will things in our County also follow what SLO is currently doing, why are not sheltered in place yet? Would I be able to get prescriptions? Doctor visits? blood infusions?

A: Not restricting medical services / care.

- They are exempted.
- o They are following what SLO is doing as of tomorrow.

- Over 70 with health conditions.
- Over 75 in general.
- Keeping the most vulnerable the safest.

Q: What is the preparedness level of the county’s medical facilities? How many ventilators do we have? How many do we need the projections of the coming surge?

A: Currently, there are 32. Recently, we have added 18 from emergency funds. They will be ready over the next month due to service testing, to increase surge capacity.

Hospitals are working on surge plans.

- Currently receiving plans, including triage plans.
- Not sure how many we would need at the moment.

Q: How does someone know when they are safe enough to go outside if they do not have symptoms and have not tested?

A: If you have isolated for 14 days.

- Also, 72 hours after the last time you had a fever, and have not taken any medication to reduce your fever.

Q: Can you tell us what the state is doing to protect health care workers in the medical setting? They do not have the protection and under pressure to see patients. Can you tell us if there is protective equipment for both our hospital and non-hospital workers?

A: Personal protective equipment for this event means eye protection, a N95 masks, a gown and gloves.

- Currently, we have an adequate supply of N95 masks.
- And we are receiving more from state agencies and direct relieve.
- We are seeing shortages of all these protective supplies, and due to shortages, we have created a committee across the county to decide where these supplies go and where they are the most needed.
 - We are doing everything we can to protect people.
- Routine visits have also been canceled for people, this allows shifting for employers and protects the public from risk.

Q: Do you believe we have enough health care staff, if our current staff may be getting sick while caring people? Specially during the surge?

A: Work with providers and meet with doctors, we guide them on how to protect themselves and they are prepared.

- We believe trainings are going well and taking precautions.
- If enough healthcare workers get affected, we do not have the answers to that. We are actively looking to bring more healthcare workers.
 - Surgeries, non-essential visits, etc. have been canceled, so has been allowing healthcare works to be available and focus on critical and emergency care.

Q: I have not heard how this virus affects pregnant women and how does it affect pregnant women?

A: So far, we are not aware of any risks of the pregnancy with the virus, because it is so new there is no data available.

- Recommend you work with your medical physician.

Q: How many COVID19 test per day are being done per county? What is being done to increase it? How long does it take? nasal vs. swab?

A: Testing 200 people per day.

- High priority patients.
- The testing availability is very high, the difference is that the turnaround time is taking the time.
 - Private vs. department of public health.
 - The timing depends on where the lab gets sent.
 - Increase availability: private labs are now expanding their capability to test, and it is helping.
 - www.publichealthsb.org
 - update the number of tests, confirmed, number of negative, number of pending.

Q: Explain the three tiers of testing:

A: Because of the initial shortage of kits, we still have to prioritize who is most at need to get a test.

- Highest need is tier 1, plus healthcare workers, hospital staff, and staff working in aging facilities.

Q: When are we getting more tests?

A: Rolling out more and more as we speak, every day the kits increase.

- We will not test someone who is just curious, they have to show that it would make a difference in their isolation.
- 80% of individuals infected, may experience very mild symptoms, that do not necessitate testing.
 - Even if we did have large capacity, we would encourage people to self-isolate for the 14 days. The biggest issue is that people need to stay home.
 - We need to protect the most vulnerable and the healthcare system.

Q: What is being getting done for the homeless and mental health/

A: Currently, individuals are being identifies and quickly testing them and removing them from group settings and off the streets.

Q: Why is SB County not being more aggressive with in shelter guidelines?

A: They want to achieve the most beneficial effect with the least intrusion of people's lives.

- The number of infections is low at the moment and there is no dire need to but things are changing daily and if that number keeps increasing that call will be made.

Q: How long does COVID19 last on surfaces? How do we clean it? Does it live on pet's fur?

- It depends on the type of metal or plastic.
- You can use very common cleaning supplies to disinfect.
- No answers on pet's fur.

Q: Why is there not much information?

A: Trying to expand more demographics of individuals that test positive.

- Sharing the age group, not able to share any more than that.
 - We are including age and location.
 - There are rules behind sharing personal information relating to health and medical records.
 - SB has a small community and the person can be trace, which is not just.

- People need to follow social distancing because you don't know who might be carrying it.
 - It is highly encouraged for that reason.
- Transmission
 - Follow social distancing
 - People can show no symptoms.
 - Younger people are at risk, and an adverse outcome.
 - The percentage is a bit better in their favor but it does not mean they are safe.
 - Take precautions.

Q: Do we have an information hotline? What is the number?

A: Call center number is **833-688-5551**.

- Also, the website, www.publichealthsbcc.org

Q: Some healthcare providers want clarity how to obtain masks and protective gear to protect themselves? Where can people go?

A: Fill the department operation center form to ask for more supplies.

- First go to your employer and call the covid19 call center.
 - They will connect you with your county.

Q: Many seniors want to help but also follow the guidelines, is there anything they can do to help the most vulnerable? If we have some money to spare, which organizations are the most in need?

A: In terms of donations, there are many agencies around that are helping the most vulnerable.

- Foodbank. Meal on Wheels.
- Homeless shelters
- Contact agencies directly and ask how to donate.
- Regarding volunteering in person:
 - Do not do it physically.
 - Stay at home.
 - Call somebody you know, check in people through phone.
 - Virtual book club.

Q: Is this going to last 18 months or longer? Is this true? How do people protect themselves without encouraging hoarding?

A: The 18 month is a time that came up to hopefully have a vaccine by then

- The pandemic is expected to last 5 months; however, it can recur.

Q: Please give us guidance on incoming mail, the store or pharmacy.

A: Encourage everyone to wash your hands with soap and water after you go grocery shopping, before and after.

- Wipe down the grocery cart handle when you are in the grocery store.
- You are safe to unpack your groceries and medication – they are not considering to be dangerous.
- The virus does not mean it is contagious because it is on a surface. The contagious part of the virus does not live for long hours.