

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the spread of COVID-19 is impacting our entire community. It is important that we look out not only for ourselves but also for our neighbors and friends during this time, especially those who are most vulnerable. Take a moment to read the following information and please join in sharing this information with individuals in our community who feel may find it useful. For more information and additional resources, please visit www.cityofsantacruz.com/coronavirus. Together, we WILL get through this.

Emergency Ordinance to Protect Renters:

At the March 24, 2020 Council meeting, the Santa Cruz City Council acknowledged the many individuals in the community that may be at risk of being unable to pay commercial or residential rents due to businesses being closed and employees losing income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. To avoid further homelessness and loss of jobs and employment opportunities, the Council approved an emergency ordinance that would prevent residential or commercial evictions for non-payment of rent as a result of economic losses related to the coronavirus pandemic. For additional details about the ordinance, please see the attached FAQ.

Housing Resource Card:

The attached resource card provides information about available resources in the community for housing access and homeless assistance.

Healthy Food Delivery Program:

Since 1973 Grey Bears has delivered more than 100 million pounds of fresh produce and healthy staples to thousands of Santa Cruz County aging adults and other agencies that serve those in need. There are no income requirements and free service is available for anyone with a financial hardship – no one is ever turned away. Please complete the form here to get started: <https://www.greybears.org/get-involved/online-membership-form/>

SCMU - Covid-19 Hardship Declaration

The Coronavirus outbreak has seriously disrupted many people's ability to pay their bills, including their SCMU utility bill. If this is the situation for someone you know, please share the following information with them: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/water/scmu-covid-19-hardship-declaration-form>

Support Local Businesses:

Several organizations have developed listings of restaurants available for take out and delivery and retailers available for online shopping. Edible Monterey Bay Magazine has developed a map and form to collect information about restaurants available for take out/delivery. The Downtown Association has also pulled together a listing of retailers and restaurants open for businesses. Our Economic Development Department is also updating their site daily to provide businesses with useful information and resources, this can all be found at: <https://choosesantacruz.com/information-for-businesses-in-response-to-covid-19>.

Free Meals For All Kids:

Santa Cruz City Schools is offering free meal pick-ups for all kids. For a list of locations please visit: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/home/showdocument?id=79413>

For More Information:

The City is coordinating closely with our public health officials at the Santa Cruz County Health Department to prevent the further spread COVID-19. In an effort to protect you and our community, changes and measures have been adopted in daily operations and activities. For further details please visit the City's website at www.cityofsantacruz.com/coronavirus. In addition, to help assist the community in answering questions about the COVID-19 outbreak, the County of Santa Cruz has established a call center to help direct questions to the proper channels. If you have questions, please call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m.6 p.m., Monday-Friday.

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