



CITY OF MILPITAS AGENDA REPORT (AR)

Item Title:	Receive Report on the Status of COVID19 Testing in the City of Milpitas; Direct the City Manager to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Santa Clara for COVID-19 testing activities retroactive to March 13, 2020 for FEMA reimbursement purposes, if needed; Authorize Additional \$155,000 to Fund the City's Mobile Testing Unit and the County Fixed Testing Site through December 31, 2020; and Direct the City Manager to explore developing an agreement with the County to establish a City-operated vaccination site when a vaccine becomes available
Category:	Public Safety
Meeting Date:	10/6/2020
Staff Contact:	Geoffrey Maloon, 408-586-2818
Recommendations:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Receive an update regarding the status of COVID-19 testing in Milpitas.2. Authorize \$155,000 to fund the City's mobile testing unit, the County mobile and pop-up testing sites and the fixed testing site at Milpitas Library through December 31, 2020.3. Direct the City Manager to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Santa Clara for COVID-19 testing activities retroactive to March 13, 2020 for FEMA reimbursement purposes, if needed.4. Direct the City Manager to explore developing an agreement with the County to establish a City-operated vaccination site when a vaccine becomes available.

Background:

On March 12, 2020, in response to the growing Coronavirus threat and the State of California's declaration of a state of emergency, City Manager Steve McHarris declared a local emergency. On March 13, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak. On Monday, March 16, 2020, the County of Santa Clara, and six of the most populous counties in the region, announced a shelter-in-place (SIP) order in light of the increased number of cases of COVID-19 that have been confirmed in Santa Clara County. The incident period related to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak has currently no end date.

COVID-19 has severely impacted nations and communities across the globe. There is universal agreement among public health experts, scientists, physicians and emergency managers that widespread testing is one of the keys to lifting stay-at-home/shelter-in-place orders. Santa Clara County and the United States have been lagging in the availability of widespread, accessible testing, which is hampering our ability to lift these orders.

During the May 5 special City Council meeting, Council authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with a Milpitas based testing lab, IGeneX, Inc., to support a City mobile testing unit targeting vulnerable populations and employees of businesses based in Milpitas. On May 27, the mobile testing unit began testing Milpitas residents and visitors and continues to operate Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM at various sites throughout the City.

Council was given an update on the mobile and County fixed testing sites at its special meetings on June 2. Council approved an additional \$65,000 to support the City mobile testing unit and \$25,000 to support the County fixed testing operation through August 7 utilizing the Unanticipated Expenditure Reserve. Council was

again provided an update on August 4 and approved additional funding in the amount of \$175,000 for continued testing support through October 9 from the same reserve.

Staff has been working with the County hospital system, County Office of Emergency Services (OES), and a Milpitas-based medical testing lab named IGeneX to establish and increase testing capability in the City of Milpitas through both fixed and mobile testing options. The Milpitas based mobile testing unit is the only testing facility in the County that is easily accessible to City residents and employees and providing test results in 24 hours or less on a consistent basis.

As the pandemic unfolded and costs were incurred, staff remained in regular contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that the costs related to the pandemic including the costs for the mobile testing facilities are eligible for reimbursement by FEMA. During a call on May 29, 2020, the FEMA representative confirmed that mobile testing facilities are an eligible expense for reimbursement without specifying any conditions for reimbursements. During the months of August and September staff started to compile all necessary data and documentation for FEMA reimbursement including costs related to the testing facilities. As part of seeking input to establish the rental rate for the ambulance used as the mobile testing site, another FEMA representative inquired whether the city received a directive from the County health official to establish a mobile testing site.

Analysis:

While the science and recommendations vary, the generally accepted recommendations for testing range between one and twenty-one percent of the population weekly. With a population of approximately 80,000, five percent of the population equates to 4,000 weekly tests. With the County fixed testing site, combined with the City's mobile testing unit and the twice monthly County pop-up and mobile testing units fully operational, we expect testing approximately 1,600 people weekly.

Fixed Testing

On April 15, 2020, the County Hospital and Clinic System opened a small fixed testing site at the Milpitas Sports Center. From its April opening until May 22 the site operated daily, Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm by appointment only and was averaging approximately 6 – 8 tests per day for Santa Clara Valley Health patients only. The fixed testing site has since relocated to the Milpitas Library parking garage and is testing Monday-Friday from 8 AM-4:30 PM. The site is conducting approximately 100-120 tests per day on an appointment only basis. The County testing site has relaxed their testing criteria to include asymptomatic persons. Additionally, the site is open to people outside the County Health system, uninsured individuals and is free of charge. Staff is recommending continuing City support through December 31 in the form of three part-time personnel to assist with intake and traffic control.

The City has supported this effort with equipment such as generators, extension cords, tables, chairs and fans. Additionally, the Recreation and Community Services department have supported with effort with part-time personnel and on-duty Fire department personnel are tasked with decontaminating the site every day when operations cease. As of October 1, the estimated cost of this effort is approximately \$51,000. The additional cost to support the County fixed site through December 31 is estimated to be an additional \$36,000, with total costs to support this site estimated to be \$87,000. It is anticipated that approximately \$62,250 of that cost will be reimbursed by FEMA pending development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the County as discussed below.

City Mobile Testing Site

The mobile testing unit has conducted 4,211 tests to date, or approximately 320 per week, with approximately 60-65% of all persons tested being Milpitas residents or working in the City. It is important to note that the mobile testing unit was taken out of operation on August 20 due to deployment of staff to combat wildfires. With the return of staff from deployment, testing is scheduled to resume on October 5.

As of October 2, the City mobile testing unit has cost approximately \$198,000. This includes staff from various departments such as Fire, Recreation and Community Services, and City Manager's Office, and general support such as hotels for quarantines, supplies and food for testing staff (approximately \$11,500).

These costs include staffing the mobile test unit as well as staff hours for administration that includes flyer creation and translation, setting site locations, notification of tested individuals, coordination with the County Emergency Operations Center Testing Unit, social media updates, appointment setting, website postings and outreach. Staff dedicated to this effort include the Fire Department EMS Battalion Chief, EMS Captain and one firefighter on light duty. Recreation and Community Services staff participating in this effort include the Director of Recreation and Community Services, the Community Engagement and Inclusion Administrator and four full-time staff members. Two additional part time staffers have been assigned to the mobile testing unit to assist with documentation and quality control. The costs for the administrative personnel are largely not reimbursed by FEMA because the staff time for these costs was budgeted prior to the declaration of the national emergency. The unanticipated non-reimbursed costs for administration to date total approximately \$43,500 including salary and benefits for administrative personnel.

Recent efforts to reduce needed administrative staff time have been implemented and some administrative functions are one-time only and will not result in additional time needed (flyer creation and translation). Total additional cost anticipated to continue the City's mobile testing program through December 31 is \$247,000. With the fire related shutdowns of the mobile testing unit approximately \$133,000 of authorized funding has not been expended which is recommended to be used to offset the additional funding needed to continue the program through December 31. Therefore, total new funding needed to continue the mobile testing through December is \$114,000.

Despite the anticipated costs and resources required, staff recommends continued support of the mobile testing effort. The reasons for this recommendation include extremely fast test results (24 hours or less), the ability to test essential City employees on short notice, the ability to reach vulnerable populations such as the uninsured, elderly and essential workers and the continued testing recommendations of the CDC and public health experts to facilitate reopening and prevention of community spread.

County Mobile and Pop-up Testing

The County set up both pop-up and mobile testing in the City in the month of August and on a rotating basis moving forward. The mobile site focuses on testing a target population such as essential workers or vulnerable groups and can test up to 200 people per day. The pop-up site is able to test up to 600 individuals per day by appointment only.

The City will need to provide up to three staff to assist with intake and traffic control for the mobile testing. Estimated costs for staff time through October 9 is approximately \$4,500. An additional \$4,500 will be needed to continue to support this program through December 31.

The County mobile and pop up testing sites would augment the existing testing in the City and increase our monthly testing significantly. The additional County testing sites would allow an increase of up to 1,600 additional test capacity in Milpitas on a monthly basis.

Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Santa Clara

As discussed above, FEMA requires that the City receive a directive from the County Health Official to operate testing sites within its boundaries. Staff was not made aware that a directive is necessary in order to receive reimbursement. The FEMA representative suggested that in lieu of a directive, which cannot be granted retroactively, the City enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the County to seek reimbursement for costs related to the mobile testing facilities established in our City.

On Thursday last week staff had a conference call with County and FEMA representatives. FEMA reiterated the requirement that the City is required to have legal authority such as a directive from the County Health Official for administering COVID-19 tests. Staff responded that under State law, the City's Health Official shall take measures as may be necessary to prevent the spread of the disease or occurrence or additional cases. Staff will provide the section of State law and documented interactions between the City and County regarding

the operation and support for the testing sites to FEMA. If FEMA rejects the City's position of having legal authority, staff will develop a MOU with the County. Therefore, staff seeks direction from the Council to work with the County to develop an MOU and bring it back for Council consideration that will facilitate reimbursement with FEMA for costs related to operating local testing sites within our City, if needed.

City Mobile Testing Sites to Support Vaccine Administration

Discussions with the County Emergency Medical Services Agency Medical Director, Dr. Ken Miller, indicate that the State of California Emergency Medical Services Agency has expanded the paramedic scope of practice to include vaccine administration when a vaccine becomes available. Working through the County Office of Emergency Management and the County Public Health Department, staff is seeking authorization from Council to explore entering into an agreement to support vaccine administration and ensure that the City will be reimbursed for all related costs. Any such agreement will be brought forward to Council for consideration and approval.

Policy Alternative:

Alternative: Do not continue to provide City support for fixed and mobile testing sites in Milpitas

Pros: Savings of \$247,000. City staff resources could be used for other City priorities.

Cons: Reduced overall testing capacity in Milpitas and reduced ability to test City employees.

Reason not Recommended: Testing remains a key component of prevention, reduced community transmission and reopening. The City testing efforts have been well-received by the public.

Fiscal Impact:

Additional funding needed for all testing efforts through December 31, 2020 is anticipated to be approximately \$155,000, which will be funded from the Unanticipated Expenditure Reserve. Pending County approval of the aforementioned MOU, FEMA reimbursement is anticipated to be 75% or \$116,250 plus 5% management fee (\$7,750). Total estimated costs of support for testing in Milpitas through December 31, 2020 is \$499,000 of which approximately \$399,200 is anticipated to be reimbursed. The remaining costs have been and will be covered by the General Fund.

California Environmental Quality Act:

Not applicable

Recommendations:

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3. Direct the City Manager to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Santa Clara for COVID-19 testing activities retroactive to March 13, 2020 for FEMA reimbursement purposes, if needed.
4. Direct the City Manager to explore developing an agreement with the County to establish a City-operated vaccination site when a vaccine becomes available.

Attachments:

None