



Villages of San Mateo County

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



July 3, 2020

Dear Villagers,

Since March we have been living in two worlds. Globally, we are gripped by the enormity of the daily news, but locally we continue to be here for each other. This will not change.

As Villagers we remain connected and engaged in various ways through spirit and actions, but if you're like me you have wondered what comes next. A few weeks ago, I wrote about Village services and our hope to have more information by the end of June. I trust that you are following the news and that you see the recently growing rate of coronavirus infections in California, suggesting that **caution remains paramount**. I urge each of you to continue to shelter-in-place and avoid non-essential outings. Your life, and the lives of others, may still depend on the precautions you take. But I do understand that some services become essential.

This week our Leadership Team agreed on the following:

1. If volunteer drivers are willing and available, effective immediately we will provide **necessary and urgent rides** (primarily medical). A COVID waiver is required; see below.
2. Non-essential rides will not be given yet. We want to monitor the urgent rides program for a while, and then decide on the next step.
3. **Urgent in-home services** will also be provided. The member requesting the service should give serious thought as to whether it's really necessary at this time. Home safety issues are clearly a priority, as is technology assistance to connect with the outside world. Again, a COVID waiver is required; see below.
4. Non-urgent in-home services: please hold off for a while.

There is no guarantee that volunteers will be available to provide these services on short notice. Please be patient and allow as much lead time as possible.

Service delivery requires that Volunteers and Members each sign the **COVID Waiver** (enclosed) and mail it back to us in the self-addressed and stamped envelope. You should read it carefully and be sure you agree to follow the safety protocol that is described. After signing and mailing the waiver, members can place (and volunteers can provide) a Service Request.

I know this might seem extreme, but it is really important. By reading and signing, you show that you understand the risk and that you will control it by taking the precautions. Even if you do not sign the waiver, please mail it back to us anyway and check the box "not yet ready to sign". You can change your decision to sign or not sign at any time in the future.

Villages of San Mateo County
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Let me emphasize once again: **this virus has not gone away. In fact, it is on the rise at this time.** We are not encouraging you to take risks, and any decision to participate in Service Requests is yours alone.

I hope that each of you has found comfort in your Village connections during this very unusual time. Please know that if you have questions, concerns, worries, or anxieties, you are not alone! We are all feeling it. But we are all here for each other. If you need Village assistance you may reach us at 650-260-4569.

Be strong, be safe, and be well.



Scott McMullin

President, Villages of San Mateo County

Enclosures:

COVID waiver/agreement

Return envelope

Addendum:

Safety precautions during a Service Request:

- Wear masks whenever in the vicinity of another person, especially indoors or in a car, but also outdoors when approaching 6 feet.
- Maintain at least 6 feet distance whenever possible.
- In a car, the passenger should sit in the back seat, right hand side.
- In a car, strive for fresh air (windows open or vent open).
- Driver must sanitize all surfaces likely to be touched, both before and after every ride.
- For in-home Service Requests, try to move the activity to a fresh air location like patio or open garage. If it must be done indoors, try to be in separate rooms and have good ventilation.
- Sanitize touched surfaces when the job is completed.
- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently, or use hand sanitizer frequently, and avoid touching your face.
- Do not participate in a Service Request if you are feeling ill or have been around someone who is ill.
- If you become ill within 14 days of participating in a Service Request, notify the Village.

Villages of San Mateo County Communicable Disease Waiver and Release

This Communicable Disease Waiver and Release Agreement ("CDW") is entered into by and between _____ ("Participant") and Villages of San Mateo County ("VSMC"), a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation. Participant desires to participate in the services provided by VSMC as a volunteer and/or as a member of VSMC. Participant has executed a separate Volunteer and/or Membership Agreement with VSMC. This CDW specifically addresses the risks arising from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and other communicable diseases. By signing this CDW Participant agrees as follows:

1. Participant acknowledges that he/she understands the health risks associated with participating in volunteer-provided transportation and other VSMC services, which include potential exposure to a communicable disease such as the novel coronavirus, a virus that causes serious illness (COVID-19) and may lead to death.
2. Participant understands that "social distancing" (maintaining a minimum distance of six feet from all other people, regardless of whether or not they show symptoms of illness) is the primary method recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to stem the spread of the virus. Participant acknowledges that safe social distancing is not possible in a private vehicle and may not be practical in other situations where a VSMC volunteer provides services to a VSMC member.
3. Participant agrees that, prior to and while participating in VSMC services, it is his/her responsibility to be informed about, and to take, additional available actions that are calculated to minimize exposure to and transmission of disease. Participant acknowledges that he/she may nevertheless be exposed to a heightened risk of contracting a communicable disease by participating in VSMC services and activities.
4. Participant agrees not to provide or accept VSMC services if participant is ill or experiences any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 or another communicable disease. Participant agrees to notify VSMC if he/she experiences such symptoms or illness within 14 days of participating in VSMC services. Participant consents to VSMC using this information for contact tracing and/or to alert other members, volunteers, employees, officers or agents of VSMC of their potential exposure to a communicable disease.
5. Participant understands and agrees that VSCM is not liable for any illness or death that may occur as a result of Participant's participation in VSMC services or activities. As a condition of participating in VSMC services and activities Participant, on behalf of him/herself and his/her executors and assigns releases and forever discharges VSMC and its members, volunteers, agents, officers, and employees from any claims, demands or damages arising out of or related to Participant's actual or potential exposure to a communicable disease in connection with Participant's provision or acceptance of VSMC services.

☐ Check this box if you agree to the waiver and sign your name below.

Signature of Participant

Date

☐ Check this box if you are not yet ready to sign the waiver and write your name below.
