

# Surviving COVID Culture

Living In A Time Of Global Pandemic

## Jimmy Panetta Teleconference about COVID & Monterey County

March 25, 2020 6pm to 7pm Notes by Maren Elwood

**Jimmy Talking:** Just came back from the Monterey County food bank – feeding veterans and the National Guard. Our current numbers: Overall USA: 55,000 cases 921 deaths 60 cases in Monterey County 23 deaths in our county These numbers will get worse before they get better, physical, emotionally and economically, We need to flatten the curve so as to not overwhelm our medical system

Unemployment is skyrocketing, the worst in history, could be as bad as 12.8%, It was 3.5% in February

In Washington, we have been working. We have created local programs that are federally funded, they are in negotiations on what the exact wording is for the bill will be in the Senate.

Local businesses will get loans with no repayment for people who keep their employees, we will have a new inspector general to keep track of how this money is spent, we are trying to approach this as employee up

Expand the unemployment coverage to for independent contractors, the gig economy, and for people who have been laid off but not fired.

### **We have increased the benefits:**

\$385/week has been expanded to \$600/week

Coverage expanded from 26 weeks to 38 weeks

Financial stimulus - Each family in American will get:

Adult \$1200

Child \$500

**Question For Jimmy:** Will businesses open by Easter? We need to listen to scientists and he doesn't think this will happen, when we come together and stay at home we will shorten the time we have to stay in our homes.

What I saw at the Monterey County Food Bank was people keeping social distance, our hospitals are helping each, we must be realistic about the facts, this is going to be difficult going forward, it's an honor to introduce to you our experts.

### **EXPERTS ARE INTRODUCED**

**Dr. Martha Blum** – Medical director at the Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP)

Thanks for the invitation. We are doing at Montage Health and at CHOMP... we starting our prep in January, we are focused on emergency, but we have been a bit more broad in our focus, urgent care and community clinics, beginning the 6<sup>th</sup> of March we have local testing capability, on the 11<sup>th</sup> we opened a triage area in coordination with Navidad and Salinas Valley Memorial.

When the shelter-in-place order was put in place on March 16<sup>th</sup>, then on the 18<sup>th</sup> the governor implemented a stay-at-home order, we are not seeing a large number of serious COVID illness, most people are able to stay home and take care of themselves, We are working together to manage PPE (personal protective equipment) and making sure all our medical professionals have access to the protective equipment. We are lucky that we are not the first area to be hit, like Seattle and NYC, we are learning from these areas, we are lucky that we have been staying at home for weeks now, staying at home is one of the best ways to avoid the spread, I know it's hard to do this, practice social distancing, only go out for groceries or doctors, frequently clean surfaces in the home, if you are ill stay at home

**Dr. Edward Moreno** – Monterey Health officer and director of health – thanks for inviting me, my role is that by State law requires a health office to be appointed and protect public health, he is responsibility to track health threats due to communicable disease, he's required to take appropriate steps, today we have 24 cases and 1 death, we do have indications that we have active community spread, with regards to testing, we have tested 360 people, we can test up to 80 patients per day, containment – we are identifying people who are infectious and keep them from infecting others, we conduct contact investigations, figure out when they were infectious, and then we isolate people who have been exposed, we also contact people who were in contact with the person and have them quarantine themselves, we have a care and shelter branch to isolate people who have COVID and cannot isolate themselves in home, these are homeless people and people who live in group settings, mitigation efforts – not confined to one part of the county, you should assume that people around you have been exposed, young people and people without symptoms can still spread the virus, he issued the stay-at-home on March 18<sup>th</sup> and that will remain for an undefined period of time, they are working with various organization to ensure compliance.

**Dr. Charles McKee** - Monterey County Administrator: I'm the coordinator and chief, we have a wonderful community that is heeding the shelter-in-place order, there are some folks that may have confusion about what defines an essential service, go to the [county website](#) to find this out, check the list, we want to thank all the essential workers, our ag workers are essential for our food chain, first respondents, road crews, banks, pharmacies, grocery stores, yesterday the Board of Supervisors approved \$250K to provide money to the Monterey County Food bank, this will help families and students to get food, approved an ordinance to put a moratorium on evictions, we are also working hard to address the homeless population needs, we are pushing out washing stations and toilets to these communities, healthcare workers are also going out to find homeless that have symptoms, if we find COVID in the homeless population, we are securing hotels and large locations if we need to house the homeless, we are also looking in the Salinas valley, the county is not shut down, we have people manning the SNAP, Child protective services, etc. Finally, very soon we are going to get into the economic recovery part of this after we stop the spread of the disease, we are looking at our tools for the economic recovery, we are coordinating all our services with all the local hospitals

**John Walter** / Medical Director/ Watsonville Hospital – we and in Santa Cruz county are doing similar networking for the pending emergency, I'd like to get more visceral in discussing this, I just finished 4 days shifts in my ER, we are customizing our ER department to triage people that might be ill and get them home and keep them out of the main building if possible, we had the first patient in Santa Cruz county who died, he came through the ER and was recognized as having COVID, we admitted him to the ICU and put him on a ventilator but we knew his prognosis was terrible, us ER doctors see sick people all the time, we are good at triage, this is the first time in my career that all of us are dealing with a new disease and we are learning daily about it, we are preparing for a possible surge of patients, people need to understand that this is serious and unprecedented, I want to impress on the listeners this will effect families, people and our communities, we have people in Santa Cruz who live with large families, a lot of whom have chronic diseases, this will increase their illness and morbidly, I'm thankful to all my colleagues, the public really has to understand that the sheltering is really important for them and for us healthcare providers, we need PPE, we need ventilators, we are going to need hospital capacity, in as short as 2 weeks we will be seeing 200 patients a day and 20% of those will be serious, there's a calm before the storm going on right now, it's a BIG deal! Fortunately we have really smart people who are networking, conferences, task force meetings. My message is stay home, call your doctor if you are ill, if you are short of breath and your doctor tells you to go to the ER, we are happy to see you.

**Cory Williams** – of US Small Business Administration – couple new updates, now all of our loans will have a 30 year amortization, so a 25K loan would only be around \$90/month. We now have a one-year moratorium for payments. We encourage all our small businesses to apply for these loans.

**Back to Jimmy Panetta:** Thanks to all for attending. We will now take some questions:

**Question: Does COVID get killed by heat?** Sunlight won't just kill it. Best bet to wash hands and use alcohol wipes. No comment on steam or heat.

**What else can you do when you are running out of sanitizer?** – distance yourself from people and wash hands with soap and water

**Is there anything in the bill that addresses seniors who are 65 or older?** All people with an adjusted income of \$75K or less are eligible for the \$1200 and you have a working SS# There are also meals programs for the seniors, seniors will not have to take distributions from the IRAs and 401K's, the senate bill also waives the 10% early withdrawal fees, there is also \$50 Million dollars for low income seniors,

**I've been sick for over a week, what can people like me do to get tested?** Call your primary care doctor and discuss with them, they can help you make the decision, if you don't have a primary care physician, there are many telemedicine options that may be available through your insurance carrier, or call your ER, and Montage has free e-visits, on the CHOMP.org or Montage.org

**What are the criteria to get a test?** If you are feeling ill but can care for yourself at home you can reach out by telephone, if you come to the ER, these are what we look for:

Symptoms are consistent, fever, cough and shortness of breath, We look for people at risk, diabetes, heart disease, other chronic disease, We are looking for people who live in group homes, and healthcare workers, first responders, We are not testing people that are asymptomatic , Eventually there will be free testing

**My question is on any extensions for property taxes or mortgage payments?** the senate bill currently blocks federally backed loans, they are given a break for 16 days, there are breaks for multi-family loans to , for landlords backed by the federal government are blocked from eviction,

On rent, the Board of Supervisors, has adopted a moratorium on evictions based on your inability to pay due to COVID, as far as property taxes goes is that they tax collections don't have the ability to delay, that has to be done at the state level

**Comments by Jimmy Panetta** – we are spending a ton of money on testing. \$375 Million must be spent to support testing

**Childcare workers – how can we make sure we are compensating them for their additional risks?** I think we have taken independent contractors into consideration, house cleaners, and people in the Gig economy, these will be covered by the unemployment insurance up to \$600/week, this will go for up to 39 weeks

**What are you doing to support our local food banks as they experience big demand?** Jimmy just came from the Monterey Food Bank, this pandemic pushes people into their homes, this will impact people being able to get to the food bank, we have asked for the National guard to be activated to help deliver food, we have let people know that the food banks are in need of resources, we need staff and volunteers, the national guards are from our area, packed up food and gets delivered,

**My husband and I are both independent contractors?** You will be covered under the Senate bill that creates a pandemic unemployment benefit, provides to people with the limited work history, biggest thing for IC including gig people, those people are eligible for small business loans, as an American you can also get the \$1200

**Closing by Jimmy Panetta:** Thanks to all our experts. Know that my office is there to answer your questions and assist you to dealing with the federal buracracy. Be sure to call my office to get help: We can deal with this pandemic together. We are there for you. Many people are stepping forward in the face of this pandemic. We will beat this thing as long as we do this together.

Jimmy Panetta's Website & Office Numbers [Jimmy Panetta Website](#)

Santa Cruz Office 831-429-1976 Salinas Office 831-424-2229 Washington, DC Office 202-225-2861