



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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HCPWG & HPP Med/Health Update

Date: March 4, 2021

- 1. San Luis Obispo County COVID-19 Status Update – Vince Pierucci, SLO County Operations Section Chief**
 - a. Current total cases in San Luis Obispo: 19,751, Current active case: 346
 - b. San Luis Obispo has officially moved to the Red Tier as of Wednesday 3/3/21
 - c. If we continue on this trajectory, we may be moving to Orange tier in as soon as 3 weeks

- 2. Epidemiological Update – Ann McDowell, County of San Luis Obispo Epidemiologist**
 - a. Cases are declining at this time
 - b. With the County moving into Red Tier, and the start of schools, we expect cases will rise.
 - c. New COVID variants appear to be more virulent, that is, they can be spread more easily among people. This may also cause a rise in cases, as these variants are becoming the dominant strain in California.
 - d. More vaccines are being released, including the new Johnson & Johnson 1 shot vaccine. This vaccine is shown to prevent severe illness, hospitalizations and death in recipients
 - e. We face a time of uncertainty in the projection of the pandemic for the next few months, so be sure to continue to social distance, wear your masks, and be safe.
 - f. ZERO flu cases

- 3. Healthcare Provider Unit Update - Dr. Rick Rosen, SLO County Healthcare Provider Unit**
 - a. Outbreak response testing has gone down significantly due to the increased vaccinations in congregate settings
 - b. Almost all of the care facilities have completed their 3rd “catch all” clinics through the federal pharmacy partnership
 - c. There are 5 current outbreaks – decreased significantly in the last month
 - d. J&J has been tested against the Brazil and South Africa variants but there is limited research on the New York variant: BL526
 - e. Skilled Nursing Facilities will be opening visitations soon – waiting on an All Facilities Letter (AFL) to be released from CDPH.
 - f. Youth sports have restarted as of last weekend. Due to case rates being low, no routine screening is being required, just recommended
 - g. Schools are reopening and able to handle their own case investigations

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program

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www.slopublichealth.org/PHEP

4. Communicable Disease Unit Update – Christine Gaiger, Communicable Disease Unit

- a. Our team of 7 (down from 27) contact tracers and case investigators continue to investigate.
- b. We are continuing to reach out to employers about positive cases.
- c. There is a nurse line for the public to call if they have any questions.
- d. Significant reduction in number of cases – number of staff needed is less. DSWs are starting to return to their normal County jobs.

5. Vaccine Unit Update - Denise Yi, Vaccine Division

- Currently, we have 3 POD sites in SLO, Paso Robles, and Arroyo Grande.
- To date, the County PODs have vaccinated over 35K community members and 48% have completed the two dose series
- Johnson and Johnson was FDA approved for EUA on Saturday Feb 27th. The County has not yet received a shipment of this vaccine.
- The Governor visited the SLO Vaccine site at Cuesta College on Tuesday March 2.
- We are currently vaccinating:
 - Phase 1A and 65 or older adults.
 - 10% of the first dose appts each week are going to K-12 and childcare providers
- We will be hosting our first “Farmworker Friday” on Friday March 19th at the new Arroyo Grande site at the South County Regional Center.
- The IMT have demobilized as of this week and have been a tremendous help to our vaccine operations. They are currently gearing up for fire season.

6. Volunteer Update - Maya Craig-Lauer, Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Coordinator

- a. Volunteers continue to serve at the three county vaccination sites in medical and non-medical roles.
- b. The San Luis Obispo County Medical Reserve Corps has served 12,876 volunteer hours during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- c. 381 individual volunteers have served volunteer shifts.
- d. Recruitment for the MRC has closed due to the overwhelming response of our community. Anyone who reaches out with interest is added to a waitlist to be notified if recruitment reopens.
- e. We have resumed sending out the volunteer newsletter. [See our current issue and previous issues at this link.](#)

THE NEXT ALL COALITION MEETING (DHCC) WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING ON April 1, 2021 – via ZOOM

Next Regular HPP/HCPWG Committee meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2021 11:00 am – Noon *via ZOOM*