



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**Michael Hill** *Health Agency Director*

**Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH** *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

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**HCPWG & HPP CHADOC Update**

*Date: September 2, 2021*

- 1. San Luis Obispo County COVID-19 Status Update – Vince Pierucci, SLO County Liaison Officer/MHOAC**
  - a. Current total Cases in San Luis Obispo County: 25,729 Current Active Cases: 1,703
  - b. There are currently 67 COVID-19 patients hospitalized with 20 in the ICU
  - c. A mask mandate has been issued for the County of San Luis Obispo for indoor settings. Read the health officer order here:
    - a. <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/resourcesGeneral/9.1.2021-Health-Order-6---Mask-Mandate.pdf>
- 2. Epidemiological Update – Jessie Harris, County of San Luis Obispo Epidemiologist**
  - a. COVID-19 cases are rapidly increasing. We are experiencing high hospitalization and ICU numbers that are similar to what the County experienced in January, 2021
  - b. SLO Public Health Lab is performing Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), which has provided insights into which variants are circulating in SLO County. As the primary source of variant data for the County at this time, the lab is looking to expend WGS capacity.
  - c. Most variants identified in the past month have been Delta, but there are still a few non-Delta variants being detected (Alpha, etc.).
  - d. As of today, there have been zero flu cases in SLO county since January 1, 2021.
- 3. Healthcare Systems Branch Update - Dr. Rick Rosen, Healthcare Systems Branch Director**
  - a. 11 practices have signed up to provide monoclonal treatments.
- 4. Communicable Disease Branch Update – Laurie Salo, Communicable Disease Branch Director**
  - a. Cases have been increasing.
  - b. We are currently calling:
    - a. Those aged 0-18
    - b. Congregate Care Workers (SNFs, RCFEs, etc.)
    - c. Those aged 50+ as time allows
  - c. We are working on expanding our team to manage this volume of cases.
    - a. We have three new contact tracers that will be training next week.
- 5. Vaccine Branch Update – Christine Gaiger, Vaccine Branch Director**
  - a. We continue to vaccinate at the health depts - up to 550 per week.
  - b. Continue to host mobile clinics at schools and community sites.

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**Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program**

2180 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-788-2067 | (F) 805-788-2715

[www.slopublichealth.org/PHEP](http://www.slopublichealth.org/PHEP)

- c. EUA was lifted on Pfizer. Fully authorized for ages 16+ , EUA still in place for 12-16.
- d. Continue to seek partners and locations for community mobile clinics

**6. Lab Branch Update – Dr. James Beebe, Lab Branch Director**

- a. The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Laboratory continues to support SARS-CoV-2 outbreak testing.
  - a. PCR tests in 2021: 14,512 with 762 positives
  - b. PCR tests in prior month (ending August 25): 3,187 with 101 positives
  - c. FDA-authorized tests in current use involve the Hologic Aptima test, the CDC singleplex test, CDC FluSC2 test, and Cepheid Xpert Xpress test.
- b. In late May, the laboratory began sequencing SARS-CoV-2 to detect circulating strains within the community.
  - a. SARS-CoV-2 sequencing surveillance: 152 specimens, with 82% (124) confirmed as Delta variants
- c. The laboratory is acquiring new instrumentation to support laboratory testing—the Roche Cobas 6800 for SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing and the Clear Dx instrument for SARS-CoV-2 sequencing.

**7. EMS Branch Update – Michael Groves, EMS Branch Director**

*No update at this time.*

**8. Equity Branch – Jen Miller, Equity Branch Director**

- a. Identified census tracts with the lowest Healthy Places Index scores (least healthy, low income, low resourced) and overlaid with census tracts with lowest vaccination rates to identify priority areas for vaccine outreach
  - a. Priority 1: San Miguel, Shandon, San Simeon, homeless encampments
  - b. Priority 2: Paso Robles, Oceano, Grover Beach
- b. In the month of August:
  - a. Vaccine Street Team canvassed nearly 5,000 households
  - b. Distributed nearly 8,000 materials
  - c. Volunteers logged 537,240 steps during canvassing (equivalent to about 20 miles)
- c. Public Health’s Equity Team is disseminating vaccine information to community partners serving vulnerable populations.

**9. Environmental Health Branch Update – Liz Pozzebon, Environmental Health Branch Director**

- a. Environmental Health is continuing to work with Public Health to follow up at food facilities that have a positive case to ensure they are not at work and the facility has taken proper measures to clean and sanitize.

**10. Testing Branch Update – Maya Craig-Lauer, Testing Branch Director**

- a. We are currently operating two community testing sites M-F 7AM to 7PM:
  - a. San Luis Obispo Vets’ Hall – 801 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo
  - b. Paso Robles Train Station – 800 Pine St, Paso Robles

- b. We are planning to open a South County testing location as soon as September 7<sup>th</sup>. Location TBA, but the site will run from 7 AM to 7 PM M-F.
- c. There is a nationwide shortage of BinaxNow Rapid tests, and the State has run out of these tests completely. Due to this shortage, we have greatly decreased our own distribution of these tests. The State does not know when they will get more BinaxNow, but it seems like it will be at least a month (if not longer) until we receive more.
- d. CUE Rapid PCR tests are also facing supply issues. The State no longer has CUE cartridges, but we have applied to an HHS program that may allow for us to get additional tests to distribute.
- e. The State is recommending the use of PCR testing instead of rapid tests for those who have relied on rapid tests.
- f. The State has a program for businesses and organizations to enroll in low-cost PCR testing. Details on this program can be found here:
  - a. <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/get-started/>

**11. Volunteer Update - Sara Nygaard, Volunteer Unit**

- a. Volunteers continue to support mobile vaccination clinics in medical and non-medical roles.
- b. As cases of COVID-19 rise, volunteers have been identified to be on-call in the event hospitals experience an overwhelming surge.

THE NEXT ALL COALITION MEETING (DHCC) WILL BE ON October 7, 2021.

THE NEXT HCPWG & HCC MEETING WILL BE ON November 4, 2021.