



# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY

## Public Health Department

Jeff Hamm  
Health Agency Director

Penny Borenstein, M.D., M.P.H.  
Health Officer



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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### NEWS RELEASE

**December 4, 2015  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Penny Borenstein, MD  
Health Officer  
(805) 781-5520  
[pborenstein@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:pborenstein@co.slo.ca.us)

### NO CASES OF BACTERIAL MENINGITIS IN SLO COUNTY

The County of San Luis Obispo's Public Health Department wants to make the public aware that there have been no cases of bacterial meningitis in our county or in residents of our county since January 2015.

A report was issued earlier today by The Tribune regarding a Cal Poly student, Nicholas Reid Brown, who died suddenly at his home over the Thanksgiving holiday. The report may have seemed to imply that the cause of death was bacterial meningitis, as was believed to be the case by the young man's father. The story further states that the medical examiner's final report may take up to 90 days, upon completion of the investigation into the cause of death.

The SLO County Public Health Department had declined to issue a media release previously as we typically do not report on negative or pending findings, unless necessary to protect the public's health. Cal Poly Health Services and Administration staff and SLO Public Health Department staff have been fielding questions from concerned families where fellow students or others may have been in contact with Nicholas Brown.

Indications based on testing completed to date are that bacterial meningitis was not the cause of death. There are sufficient preliminary results to assure the community that the cause of death is not attributable to a contagious disease.

Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer, stated "We fully appreciate and share in this family's heartbreak in losing their loved one at such a young age, and wish to understand the nature of the tragedy." Dr. Borenstein further commented that "the level of personal health concern among community members, friends and acquaintances of the deceased young man is also a natural reaction, and thus we are taking this opportunity to reassure the public that they are not at risk."

There also is no relationship between the illness and death of Nick Brown and a cluster of viral meningitis cases which was reported in early November.

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