

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

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Rumor Control:

COVID-19 Vaccine Not Currently Available for Veterinarians in SLO County

We are aware that local veterinarians have recently received inaccurate communications about vaccine availability from other sources and urge all veterinary staff to follow official local sources (below) for accurate and up-to-date information about eligibility.

Important points to clarify:

- **Due to limited supply, veterinarians are not currently eligible** to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in San Luis Obispo County.
- Vaccine site staff are confirming eligibility for each individual appointment and **will not provide the vaccine to those who are not eligible**, including veterinarians at this stage.
- In SLO County, vaccine is currently available to health care workers in Phase 1a. The **State Department of Public Health has not included veterinarians in Phase 1a** of vaccine distribution and the County has not taken action to add veterinarians to this phase.

Please do not sign up for an appointment until you are eligible to do so. Signing up for an appointment right now slows down the process for everyone.

We are working as swiftly as possible to vaccinate Phase 1a health care workers and will announce widely when vaccine is available to more SLO County residents, including veterinarians. For updates:

- Regularly check <u>www.RecoverSLO.org/vaccines</u>.
- Sign up for email updates at ReadySLO.org
- Follow the Public Health Department on social media: Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook
- Watch the Public Health Department's weekly news briefing at: https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/daily-press-briefing.aspx
- Call the recorded Public Health Information Line at (805) 788-2903.

Please share this information with staff and colleagues who may have received inaccurate communication regarding eligibility.