From the Desk of Supervisor Lynn Compton

COVID-19 UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2020

9/9/2020 Wednesday COVID-19 Update from Supervisor Compton's Office

As of today, in SLO County we've had 3174 positive COVID-19 cases since inception. We had an increase of 26 from yesterday, and we have been doing better, overall, in terms of the numbers. Last week we had one day with only 9 new positive cases (that was on Tuesday), and then days with 16 and 14, respectively over the weekend. Thus, in over the course of the week, we averaging reasonably well.

We are seeing some increased cases out of Cal Poly. At this point, the vast majority of their students have shown up to the campus with negative test results in hand, however, there were a few positives, and those individuals were moved into isolation. So, at this moment, things seem to be going reasonably well at the moment at Cal Poly.

Overall, some SLO statistics: 92% of positive individuals have recovered and 226 are now recovering at home. Ten are currently in the hospital, three of those in the ICU.

We are now in the second week of Governor Newsom's posting his "Blueprint for A Safer Economy." Our county currently falls within the "purple" colored segment which determines the degree to which a county can open back up, or continues to remain shut down.

Our county numbers have gone up a little per 100K of our population. We are now at 9.6 positives/100K people in the population. We need to be below 7 for two weeks consecutively, in order to move into less restrictive tier (Red is next color segment after Purple).

Our county positivity rate of 4% is good, and this is the second criteria that is looked at by the State. This positivity rate of 4% actually puts us in a better category (color), but we still need to meet the other criteria.

The bottom line is we just need to get our case counts down a little lower in order to move forward with more businesses and/or schools opening.

Some facts on SLO County and transmission:

Cases by region – Coast (153), North County (1398), Central (768), South County (823).

Cases by age – 0-17 (296), 18-29 (955), 30-49 (1040), 50-64 (551), 65-84 (247), 85 and over (56).

Total people tested – 58,767.

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Our county has had unfortunately had 22 deaths. Nearby counties death totals: Santa Barbara (97), Monterey (58), Kern (296), Kings (76), Fresno (312), Tulare (243), Ventura 118.

CMC positive cases don't count (CMC residents specifically) but staff members who work at CMC and who test positive do count in our county numbers.

Regarding the "amount of testing" a county does…if it benefits/hurts overall numbers? We actually want to see our testing volumes high (so we get credit from the state), and the more testing we do, the more we can identify positive cases and then can isolate them, not allowing transmission to continue unabated. If "nobody gets tested" and we don't show high positive numbers that is probably giving us an inaccurate picture of what is going on here. If we were to allow community transmission to occur unmeasured, and not know where the outbreaks are, we would probably be in worse shape.

The State keeps "revisiting" youth sports guidelines – Our county continues to refer people with questions to State guidance as far as determining what is an allowable activity under the category of youth sports. There are many reasons why some types of activities is allowed or not allowed…outdoor activities better than indoor activities, the length of time of the event, the physical contact with other players/objects, etc. The state has not allowed competition in order to prevent people from other locations coming into another area and spreading the virus.

With regard to Park/recreation programs you might ask…"what is allowed?" The State has said adult sports guidelines will be forthcoming, but we haven't seen them yet, so we are trying to be reasonable when the Health Department is asked to make a judgment call.

Moving toward, our County will be participating in State's "Housing for Harvest Program" – With this program, the State will provide hotel accommodations for COVID-positive farm laborers who can't effectively isolate in homes (crowed housing conditions, etc.), or housed with other agricultural workers. Agriculture is a very important component of our local economy. The County can participate in State's contracted hotel rooms for these agricultural workers who need to be isolated due to testing positive, for up to 14 days. We (County) provide meals, transportation and wellness checks. The County contribution is then eligible for FEMA reimbursement of up to 75%.

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Lastly, to recap on our Positivity rate (positive overall tests done in county) and number of positive cases/100K population. Basically, our number has to be less than 7 cases/day/100K so, in reality 19 ½ cases/day, or 140 cases or less per week. Subtracted from our case total are the inmates that test positive but not staff members. Lastly, according to the Governor's new requirements, a county must reside in a particular "color" (we are purple) for 3 weeks before moving forward.

That's all for today. Let me know if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Lynn Compton

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