



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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HCPWG & HPP CHADOC Update

Date: August 5, 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: 22,538 Current Active Cases: 586
- b. There are currently 9 COVID-19 patients hospitalized with 7 in the ICU
- c. A New Health Officer Order from CDPH on July 26, 2021 addresses testing unvaccinated employees in healthcare and high-risk settings.
 - a. Link to the Order:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Unvaccinated-Workers-In-High-Risk-Settings.aspx>
- d. New State Guidance requires all individuals in healthcare settings and high-risk congregate care settings (among other settings) to wear masks.
 - Link to the Guidance:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>
- b. The Newest Health Officer Order from CDPH published today, August 5, 2021 requires the vaccination of workers in healthcare facilities.
 - Link to the Order:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Health-Care-Worker-Vaccine-Requirement.aspx>

2. Epidemiological Update – Jessie Harris, County of San Luis Obispo Epidemiologist

- a. COVID-19 cases are increasing rapidly
- b. California Department of Public Health retired the Blueprint for a Safer Economy on June 15, 2021, and instead points interested people to [CDC's Data Tracker](#). CDC Data Tracker shows that San Luis Obispo has a high level of community transmission, which is the highest level on the four-tier scale.
- c. Delta Variant makes up a large majority of the samples locally sequenced for SLO residents and represents 85% of the cases sequenced in CA for the month of July. However, sequencing still remains low with only 1% of cases in CA sequenced in July 2021.
- d. As of today, only 1 flu case.

3. Healthcare Systems Division Update - Dr. Rick Rosen, Healthcare Systems Division

- a. We are currently having a large outbreak at a homeless shelter. We are seeing very

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rapid transmission that we haven't seen before during other surges.

- b. There is currently a smaller outbreak at the jail.
- c. There is increased activity at CMC and ASH.
- d. Have seen an increase in school outbreaks, both higher ed and K12.
- e. We have been seeing rapid spread during this surge.
- f. We will be adding to our current outbreak testing procedures. Facilities will need to test with BinaxNow as soon after the first case is identified as possible. We will then do an initial test 5 days after the first case was identified and retest 7 days after the initial test.
- g. In regards to the Delta Variant:
 - Vaccinated people are 3.5 times less likely to be infected than unvaccinated people.
 - Vaccinated people are 8 times less likely to develop a symptomatic illness than unvaccinated people.
 - Vaccinated people are 25 times less likely to be hospitalized or die than unvaccinated people.
- h. Most fully vaccinated people who do get COVID-19 are asymptomatic. However, they can still transmit the virus to others. This is why it is important for vaccinated people to wear masks in high-risk and high-prevalence environments.

4. Communicable Disease Unit Update – Laurie Salo, Communicable Disease Division

- a. We are continuing to investigate cases although due to the increase volume of positive cases and limited number of staff we have modified our investigative activities. Currently we are investigating case over 50 years old. We will not investigate close contacts or contact employers for the case.
- b. We are currently sending information to all cases by text messages providing necessary information.
- c. We are continuing to track and follow up with outbreaks.
- d. We have reactivated the nurse line for the public to call if they have any questions.

5. Vaccine Division Update – Christine Gaiger, Vaccine Division

- a. Vaccinations are continuing through mobile, school, and employer-based clinics.
- b. We are now using incentives to encourage vaccination.
- c. Canvassing teams are door-knocking in communities to educate people on vaccines and upcoming clinics in their area.
- d. Three public health clinics are offering vaccinations. They are located in Grover Beach, San Luis Obispo, and Paso Robles.
- e. Uptake on vaccinations is slow.

6. Lab Division Update – Dr. James Beebe, Lab Division

No report

7. EMS Division Update – Michael Groves, EMS Division

No update at this time.

8. Equity Division – Jen Miller, Equity Division

- 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
 - Priority 1: San Miguel, Shandon, San Simeon, homeless encampments
 - Priority 2: Atascadero, Paso Robles, Oceano, Grover Beach
- b. Mobilized and trained a group of 27 volunteers for a “COVID-19 Vaccine Street Team” who are providing information about when and where residents can find the vaccine in their neighborhood, particularly leading up to a mobile vaccine clinic.
- c. Street Team canvases neighborhoods and businesses, providing information without engaging in coercion.
- d. Public Health’s Equity Team is disseminating vaccine information to community partners serving vulnerable populations.

9. Environmental Health Update – Liz Pozzebon, Environmental Health Division

Nothing to report at this time

10. Testing Division Update – Maya Craig-Lauer, Testing Division

- a. Testing utilization at community sites has been increasing
 - The San Luis Obispo Community Site set a single-day record on Monday, August 2nd by testing 334 people.
- b. The Paso Robles Community Site will be moving to a new location on August 20th. We are still working on finding a new location for this site in North County.
- c. Outbreaks have been increasing over the past few weeks.
 - There are currently 10 active outbreak sites at congregate/high risk environments.
- d. Employers interested in support for testing their unvaccinated employees have been directed to sign up for the State’s testing program.
 - <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/get-started/>

11. Volunteer Update – Sara Nygaard, Volunteer Unit

- a. Volunteers are serving at mobile vaccination clinics on medical and non-medical roles.
- b. Volunteers are participating in vaccine outreach by canvassing neighborhoods.
- c. Public Health is conducting trainings with volunteers to effectively have discussions about the COVID-19 Vaccine.

12. Partner Resources

- a. A recent study found, *“The epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in a healthcare setting is driven largely by disease prevalence in the community and workers from supporting services. The current infection control measures have succeeded in managing transmission in the high- and variable-risk categories; however, more attention is required for low-risk workers.”*
 - a. This demonstrates that it is important to make sure all staff, not only

those in higher-risk roles, should be considered when implementing infection control protocols. Those who work in administration, finance, food service, laundry, and IT can impact the spread of COVID-19 in a healthcare facility

- b. Link to the study: [https://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712\(21\)00383-0/fulltext](https://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712(21)00383-0/fulltext)

THE NEXT HCPWG & HCC MEETING WILL BE ON September 2, 2021.

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