



## COVID-19 VACCINE TASK FORCE

### COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force Meeting #17

December 8th, 2021

10:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting Minutes

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### Task Force Committee Members Attendees

#### **Emergency Services**

Vince Pierucci, EMS - *Absent*

Chief Jonathan Stornetta, Fire - *Absent*

Sheriff Ian Parkinson, Law Enforcement - *Absent*

#### **Bioethicist**

Luis Ochoa, MD - *Absent*

#### **Community Health Centers**

Stephen Clarke, MD - *Absent*

Jose Guzman

#### **Pharmacies**

Maronee Hollister, PharmD - *Absent*

#### **Long Term Care**

Karen Jones, Ombudsman, SLO County

#### **Business Community**

Kristen Yetter, Promega Biosciences

#### **Occupational Health**

Brian Roberts, MD, MedStop

#### **Hospitals**

Mark Lisa, Tenet - *Absent*

#### **Health Insurers**

Paul Jaconette, CenCal - *Absent*

Terri Howell, CenCal - *Absent*

Nicole Bennet, CenCal - *Absent*

Gaby Labraña, CenCal - *Absent*

Karina Orozco, CenCal

#### **Education**

Dr. James Brescia, County Office of Education

Courtney Kienow, Cal Poly-Higher Education

#### **Child Care**

Raechelle Bowlay, CCRC

#### **Corrections**

Christy Mulkerin, MD, Jail CMO - *Absent*

#### **Religious Leaders**

Pastor Tim Thuele - *Absent*

Rabbi Janice Mehring - *Absent*

Monsignor Ed Callahan - *Absent*

**Organizations serving racial and ethnic groups**

Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, Latinx - *Absent*

Cheryl Vines, NAACP

**Organizations serving people with disabilities**

Diva Johnson, Tri-Counties Regional Center

**Organizations serving people with limited English proficiency**

Irebid Gilbert, Herencia Indigena

Griselda Reyes Basurto / Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project - *Absent*

**Community Representatives**

Lynn Enns, Health Commission

Betsy Whitaker, Med Anthropologist

**Hospice**

Kim Chartrand, ASPC

**Homeless Serving Organizations**

Janna Nichols

**Voluntary Organizations**

Rick London, United Way - *Absent*

**Behavioral Health**

Jill Bolster-White, Transitions Mental Health Association

**Utilities**

Samantha Caldwell, PG&E Diablo Canyon, Energy - *Absent*

Bill Robeson, City of Arroyo Grande Water/Wastewater/Trash - *Absent*

**Agriculture**

Brent Burchett, Farm Bureau - *Absent*

**Transportation**

Geoff Straw, SLORTA - *Absent*

COVID-19 Status in SLO County as of 12/8/21

Dr. Borenstein reported that the County has been experiencing a stagnation, if not increase, of new COVID-19 cases. 1,754 people were diagnosed with COVID-19 since the October 27<sup>th</sup> report. SLO County has seen a very slight decrease in the number of hospitalizations in the past month and a half. Currently, 11 people are hospitalized, 3 of which are in the ICU. 26 additional COVID-19 deaths have been reported since October 27<sup>th</sup>. To date, 365 people have died due to COVID-19 and at least 3 deaths are pending final certification.

**Community Transmission – SLO County**

The following 7-day metrics are from the week of November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup>. San Luis Obispo County has moved back to the High (Red) Tier based on the CDC’s community transmission metrics. The current COVID-19 case rate among SLO County residents is 131.75 per 100,000. Please view the [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#) for more information.

**SLO County Outbreak Data**

Youth and congregate settings continue to be impacted by COVID-19 viral outbreaks within SLO County. Outbreaks remain most prevalent in K-12 locations, with 37 schools with active cases as of December 8<sup>th</sup>. Currently, there are 10 outbreaks in preschool/childcare locations and 10 outbreaks in congregate settings.

**SLO County Vaccine Status of COVID-19 Cases**

Unvaccinated individuals are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Since June 15, 2021, SLO County residents who are not fully vaccinated encompass at least 76.8% of COVID-19 cases, 82.4% of hospitalizations, and 73.3% deaths.

Unvaccinated individuals are 6-8x more likely to be infected by COVID-19, 12-15x more likely to be hospitalized, and 15-20x more likely to die than fully vaccinated individuals.

### **Vaccination Rates by Age in SLO County**

The percentages below indicate the percent of fully vaccinated residents as of 12/6/21. Please note booster doses have not been incorporated into this data metric.

75+:	77%
65-74:	79%
50-64:	76%
40-49:	73%
30-39:	71%
18-29:	50%
12-17:	51%
5-11:	6%

Approximately 1 in 4 (23%) of SLO county residents who are ages 75 and older remain unvaccinated. This statistic is concerning, as individuals within this age group are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 illness and related complications.

SLO County residents with at least one dose = 70.5% compared to CA at 76.9%. The County's full vaccination rate has noticeably decreased since October 27<sup>th</sup> report, with a previous rate of 72.6%. Since vaccine eligibility expanded to include children ages 5-11, this rate now encompasses a larger vaccine eligible population. The statistical difference remains between SLO County and California's full vaccination rates.

### **Boosters/Additional Doses, by Age in SLO County**

The findings below indicate the number of booster/additional doses given to residents as of 12/5/21.

65+:	31,919
50-64:	13,147
18-49:	11,248
12-17:	45

In comparison to the County's vaccination progress trends, a significant percentage of SLO County residents have not received a booster/additional dose. County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department recommends that everyone ages 18 and older *should* get a booster dose to prevent widespread COVID-19 transmission. Booster doses may be instrumental in preventing a winter surge and the newly identified Omicron variant.

### **Omicron**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a new variant of SARS-Cov-2 was reported by the World Health Organization. This new variant, known as Omicron, has now been classified as a variant of concern. Currently, it is unknown whether the Omicron variant causes more severe illness than other variants or how it might impact response to treatment. Please view the [CDC Omicron Variant](#) webpage for more information.

Variants have many mutations which impacts infectiousness and the ability for immune systems to protect against infection. New variants will continue to evolve while there are large proportions of unvaccinated individuals.

### **Boosters**

All three Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson booster doses have been reviewed, approved, and recommended by the FDA, CDC, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, and California Department of Public Health. See below for [booster dose eligibility](#).

#### Moderna + Pfizer:

- Eligible 6 months or more after receiving their 2-dose series:

#### J&J vaccine (age 18+):

- Eligible 2 months or more after receiving the initial dose

All COVID-19 vaccine boosters result in robust protection from COVID-19 infection. Boosters are strongly recommended for individuals who are 50 yrs. and older, residents of long-term care facilities, those with underlying medical conditions, those with increased risk of social inequities, and those residing or working in high-risk exposure settings.

### **Booster and Pediatric Demand**

Public Health static clinics are currently seeing an uptake of vaccine appointments for the month of December. Appointment scheduling challenges have been identified, particularly among the older age group and those with access issues. Providers are encouraged to increase booster and pediatric vaccine appointment availability to meet capacity demands.

### **Healthcare Provider Updates**

CHC – Jose Guzman indicated that all 3 vaccine brands are available at CHC clinic locations. Patients can call (805) 361-8400 to schedule testing and vaccine appointments. *Day of the Farmworker* event was reportedly successful, with over 400 attendees and 200 vaccine doses given.

CHC has also begun promoting pediatric doses among clinic locations and community events.

CenCal Health - Primary strategy is increasing amount of healthcare providers who will administer vaccine. Strategies include outreach partnership and incentives for vaccine administrators. Vaccine recipients will receive a \$50 incentive for first dose received. CenCal is actively promoting mobile vaccination clinics for SLO County.

- Member incentive website update- <https://www.cencalhealth.org/giftcard/>
- Provider Incentive
  - o Available to PCPs – FQHC's and non-FQHCs
  - o PCP will receive \$50.00 per member who receives their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The max a provider can earn per member is \$50.00.
  - o Limited to vaccines rendered between October 2021 and March 2022.

Long term care and hospital facilities – Reported fewer viral outbreaks occurring within these facilities, attributes these trends to high vaccine uptake among patients and residential staff. High vaccination rates among staff are likely due to the [healthcare provider vaccine mandate](#), which went into effect September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Based on federal changes, facilities are returning to normal visitation hours. Visits will no longer be restricted to 30 minutes and visitors can now access facilities 24/7. Some COVID-19 guidelines still apply, such as testing and PPE requirements.

Public Health and Private Medical Offices: Medical providers have increased administration of pediatric and adult vaccine doses within SLO County. Providers who administer flu or other vaccines are encouraged to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to patients.

### **Pediatric Mobile Clinic Locations**

- Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>: Atascadero High School, 2:30-5pm **Ages 12+**, *FLU available*
- Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: Paso Robles Oak Park, 2:00-5:00pm **Ages 5-18**
- Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: Shandon High School, 3:15-6pm **Ages 5-11**, *FLU available*
- Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: Grover beach Elementary, 3-6pm **Ages 5-11**, *FLU available*
- Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>: Lillian Larsen Elementary, 3-6pm **Ages 5-11**

COVID-19 vaccines will be available at each clinic, with several locations providing both COVID-19 and Flu vaccines. Promotion of these events would be greatly appreciated.

### **Partnerships**

NAACP and County of SLO Public Health Department hosted a mobile clinic event this past November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Paso Robles Downtown City Park. Several strategies were implemented in anticipation of this event. Event information was disseminated within NAACP networks, specifically among several African American churches based in Northern SLO County. Mass communication outlets were further used for event promotion, including news releases and social media platforms. Promotional materials were distributed as well, such as t-shirts, buttons, and brochures. Canvassing and business outreach was also implemented within the surrounding neighborhoods.

NAACP will be partnering for the following mobile clinic events:

- Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: Shandon High School, 3:15-6pm
- Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: Grover beach Elementary, 3-6pm
- Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>: Lillian Larsen Elementary, 3-6pm

NAACP is planning on hosting a pediatric vaccine forum on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Look out for more information regarding this event.

### **Pop-Up Clinics and Resources for Ag Workers**

Demetrio Morales-Salazar, Outreach Coordinator, is available to connect with farmworkers, answer questions, and provide information about the COVID-19 vaccines in English, Spanish, and Mixteco. Please reach out to (805) 788-2128 or email [DMoralesSalazar@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:DMoralesSalazar@co.slo.ca.us) to connect with Demetrio.

### **Communications Update**

Communications will continue broad messaging focused on preventing winter surge, including vaccine, masking, testing, and precaution measures. Upcoming holiday PSAs will have a tone of gratitude and other positive associations with the vaccine.

County of San Luis Obispo Public Health will be shifting its COVID-19 operations to a new website. More information regarding the site will be available soon.

### **Vaccine PSA Campaigns**

Local Vaccine Champions are sharing their calls to action for community members to get the vaccine. Please help share these powerful messages:

- **Local OBs Dr. Stanislaus and Dr. Thomas**  
Dr. Thomas (30 seconds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQLgLdnb48w>

Dr. Stanislaus (30 seconds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwHyHjxMEjc>  
Dr. Thomas and Dr. Stanislaus (30 seconds):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wKHxvepTyQ>  
Dr. Thomas and Dr. Stanislaus (3 minutes): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riRLoIV-3-I>

- **RACE Matters**

Get the Facts, Get Vaxxed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCzyvgPrUHO>

I Got the Vax: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaNKEpeC7dM>

Vax for the Economy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZDJj80ROi8>

- **Vax4Us Campaign**

Vax4Us: English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uULYAH3XxAE>

Vax4Us: Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9b94TnQmF8>

- **Patrick Laird**, local athlete and NFL player: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGDJ427l0k8>

- **Lunch & Learn: COVID-19 Vaccines for Children**

Childcare provider forum hosted by the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health

Department. Streamed live on 11/17/2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtYKTSudMB8>

### **COVID-19 & Omicron Resources:**

- COVID-19 information for SLO County: <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/covid19.aspx>
- Testing information: <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/should-i-be-tested.aspx>
- [Holiday Gatherings and Travel \(ca.gov\)](#)
- Omicron Variant: [Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know | CDC](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Omicron Variant \(ca.gov\)](#)

### **Vaccine FAQs and Resources:**

- COVID-19 Vaccine Information for SLO County: <https://www.recover slo.org/en/detailed-vaccine-stats.aspx>
- Local FAQ, RecoverSLO: <https://www.recover slo.org/en/vaccine-faqs.aspx>
- Booster and Third Doses: <https://www.recover slo.org/en/third-dose-of-the-covid-19-vaccine.aspx>
- COVID-19 Booster Eligibility: [COVID-19 Booster Vaccines \(ca.gov\)](#)
- Ages 5-11 Vaccine Eligibility: [IMM-1396 Vaccine Eligibility Chart\(ages5-11\)final11-3-21 \(eziz.org\)](#)
- Tough FAQs: <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/faq/>

### **Reliable materials addressing prevalent vaccine concerns:**

- [Fertility and the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Children & Teens – English](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Children & Teens - Spanish](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine & Myocarditis](#)
- [Getting the Vaccine Even if You've Had COVID-19](#)
- [What are mRNA Vaccines?](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine & Preventing Virus Mutations](#)

### **Closing Comments**

The Vaccine Task Force was originally established to act as an advisory body as decisions were being made about vaccine eligibility. An open forum was held to determine the future of these meetings. Attendees stated that meetings are informative, however may not be relevant for all representatives. More information regarding advisory structure will be conveyed soon.

Next meeting: **TBD**

Meeting notes, and slides available at:

<https://www.recover slo.org/en/slo-county-vaccine-taskforce.aspx>

Adjourned at 11:28am.