



COVID-19 VACCINE TASK FORCE

COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force Meeting #13

July 28, 2021

10:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting Minutes

Task Force Committee Members Attendees

Emergency Services

Vince Pierucci, EMS

Chief Jonathan Stornetta, Fire

[Sheriff Ian Parkinson, Law Enforcement - Absent](#)

Bioethicist

[Luis Ochoa, MD - Absent](#)

Community Health Centers

Stephen Clarke, MD

Jose Guzman

Pharmacies

(Maronee Hollister, PharmD)

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

Rachel Ponce, CenCal

Nicole Bennet, CenCal

Gaby Labraña, CenCal

Education

Dr. James Brescia, County Office of Education

Courtney Kienow, Cal Poly-Higher Education

Child Care

[Raechelle Bowlay, CCRC - Absent](#)

Corrections

Christy Mulkerin, MD, Jail CMO

Religious Leaders

[Pastor Tim Thuele - Absent](#)

Rabbi Janice Mehring

[Monsignor Ed Callahan - Absent](#)

Organizations serving racial and ethnic groups

[Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, Latinx - Absent](#)

(Veronica Avery, NAACP)

Organizations serving people with disabilities

Diva Johnson, Tri-Counties Regional Center

Organizations serving people with limited English proficiency

Irebid Gilbert, Herencia Indigena

Community Representatives

[Mary Jean Sage, Health Commission - Absent](#)

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

Transportation

Geoff Straw, SLORTA

(Tania Arnold, SLORTA)

COVID-19 Status in SLO County as of 7/28/21

New guidance from California Department of Public Health and CDC recommends indoor masking. When CDC revised its masking guidance in May, the Delta variant accounted for 1% of cases. Today that number is more than 75%. CDC and CDPH continue to recommend policies based on local transmission data.

Dr. Borenstein reported a significant increase in COVID-19 in SLO County. Over the past week, as of 7/26/21, SLO County had 262 new cases, 6 hospitalizations, one death and eight outbreaks. In the State of California, hospitalizations have tripled in the past month and the age of hospitalization has dropped from 63 to 51.

Additional note from CDPH, 7/29/21:

For the week of July 14-20, the average case rate among unvaccinated Californians is 20.7 per 100,000 per day and the average case rate among vaccinated Californians is significantly lower at 3.5 cases per 100,000 per day. The vast majority of new cases are among the unvaccinated with 600% higher case rates among the unvaccinated than for those who are vaccinated.

Vaccination Rates by Age in SLO County

The numbers below indicate the percent of people fully or partially vaccinated.

75+: 79%

65-74: 85%

50-64: 73%
40-49: 69%
30-39: 45%
18-29: 58%
16-17: 51%
12-15: 43%

Total SLO County Vaccination Rate (fully + partially vaccinated) = 65.3% compared to CA at 72.2%.

Vaccination Rates by Race/Ethnicity in SLO County

The numbers below indicate the percent of people fully or partially vaccinated. Rates are based on Department of Finance (DoF) Population estimates (2021). Race/ethnicity is self-reported.

American Indian/Alaskan Native: 42% vaccinated
Asian: 59% vaccinated
African American/Black: 24% vaccinated
Hispanic/Latinx: 48% vaccinated
Mixed/Multi-race: 44% vaccinated
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 127% vaccinated*
White: 57% vaccinated
Unknown: 20,699**
Other: 12,826**

*More people self-identified as Pacific Islander than are included in DoF Population estimates

**Large number of people who selected "other" or "unknown" can skew data

Vaccination rates by age, race/ethnicity, and overall vaccination rates in the County and in the State of CA can be found on the interactive maps on the CDPH website: <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccination-progress-data>

Vaccination Rates by City

The list below includes the percent of individuals either fully or partially vaccinated. Population data is based on DoF Population estimates.

SLO (93405): 36%
San Miguel: 39%
Shandon: 40%
Creston: 40%
San Simeon: 43%
Atascadero: 46%
Paso Robles: 47%
Santa Margarita: 49%
Grover Beach: 50%
Oceano: 51%
Los Osos: 56%
Arroyo Grande: 56%
Templeton: 56%
Nipomo: 59%
Cayucos: 60%
Morro Bay: 63%
Pismo Beach: 63%
Cambria: 68%
SLO (93401): 69%

Avila Beach: 108%*

*More people listed Avila Beach as their city of residence than are listed in the DoF population estimate.

Vaccination Rates by Census Tract

Public Health is focusing outreach and mobile vaccination efforts in the following census tracts: Shandon, San Simeon, Grover Beach, San Miguel.

Door to Door Canvassing and Outreach

Public Health will hold a training for volunteers interested in canvassing in priority census tracts on 8/3/21 from 9am – noon. Register [here](#). The COVID-19 Vaccine Street Team will canvas in small groups multiple times each week throughout the month of August to provide neighbors with information about when and where to find the vaccine nearby.

Mobile Vaccine Clinics

Public Health has held 68 mobile clinics and administered nearly 2,500 doses at schools, low-income housing, supported housing facilities, faith-based organizations, homeless shelters and encampments, nonprofit organizations and more. TMHA is working with Public Health and homeless serving organizations to administer vaccine in encampments. Promotores have been instrumental in conducting hyper-local, multi-lingual outreach prior to events and securing taco trucks and raffles. The County will announce an incentive campaign for the month of August. \$25 gift cards will be offered at Public Health clinics in Grover Beach, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo and at select mobile clinics, while supplies last.

During the months of June and July, Promotores and the Public Health mobile vaccine team targeted the neighborhood near Oak Park in Paso Robles, and the neighborhood surrounding the Oceano Community Center. Three mobile clinics were offered in each area and extensive outreach was conducted by the Promotores. Oak Park and Oceano census tracts were chosen for their high Healthy Places Index (HPI) vulnerability scores as well as the low vaccination rates. After two months of outreach and mobile clinics: Oak Park neighborhood census tract is the *most* vaccinated census tract in SLO County. The census tract which includes the Oceano Community Center is the 4th highest vaccinated.

Youth Vaccines

The SLO County Office of Education in partnership with Public Health will hold an online forum: Kids and COVID-19 Vaccine on August 11. Three doctors will participate on the panel. Questions from parents will be collected in advance of the event and the doctors will respond to key themes.

At mobile vaccine clinics held at back to school events, doctors will be on site to respond to parents' questions and concerns.

Cal Poly Outreach

Courtney reported that all Cal Poly faculty, staff and students will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 if they access campus facilities during the fall. The mandate encompasses all 23 CSU campuses. Cal Poly's Student Health and Wellbeing staff, PULSE Peer Health Educators and the Public Health Club have expressed interest in promoting vaccine and participating in Public Health's canvassing and outreach activities.

Cuesta is not planning to enforce the same CSU mandate, but continues to encourage all staff and students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Healthcare Providers

Long term care facilities with low vaccination rates for both staff and residents have been identified. Public Health's Vaccine Team is working with facilities to provide education targeted to staff concerns and on-site vaccination. Acute care settings, such as hospitals, Emergency Rooms, Psychiatric Health Facility, and Urgent Care will begin to encourage pre-discharge vaccinations.

CHC is expanding vaccine to nearly all clinics and will begin administering Pfizer by mid-August. They will also ask each patient about vaccination at each medical visit. CHC held a mobile clinic in the California Valley in partnership with the Food Bank distribution and they will hold another clinic on Friday 7/30/21 at their San Miguel clinic from 1-5pm.

CHC and CenCal Health are working on text and audio messages to unvaccinated patients/members. CenCal is also working on targeted outreach campaigns to encourage vaccination among members.

Dr. Bravo is the first pediatric practice to offer in-office vaccines for children. The Public Health Vaccine Team will continue outreach and offer technical support for other pediatric practices and adult medicine. Public Health can provide refrigeration and digital data loggers, technical support in enrollment in the State vaccine tracking system.

State Health Officer Order

California will be requiring health care settings to verify that workers are fully vaccinated or tested regularly. Unvaccinated workers will be subject to at least weekly COVID-19 testing and will be required to wear appropriate PPE. This requirement also applies to high-risk congregate settings like adult and senior residential facilities, homeless shelters and jails. These steps will help protect vulnerable patients and residents. The new policy for state workers will take effect August 2 and testing will be phased in over the next few weeks. The new policy for health care workers and congregate facilities will take effect on August 9, and health care facilities will have until August 23 to come into full compliance.

The full Health Officer Order can be found at the following link:

<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>

Question from Geoff Straw, SLORTA

Q: What policies/procedures should an employer like the RTA establish if we decide to mandate unvaccinated employees be tested regularly? Would the employer be required to arrange for and pay for the regular testing of its unvaccinated employees?

A: Yes, it is the employer's responsibility to arrange testing for unvaccinated staff. Employers can join the State testing program with either PCR or Antigen testing:

<https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/get-started/> PCR is \$55 a test, but can be billed to the employee's insurance. Antigen testing is free, but positives will need a confirmatory PCR. Employers could also hire an outside vendor. The community testing sites should only be used for symptomatic or exposed individuals. Vince Pierucci is the Public Health Department's EMS Director & MHOAC and can be reached at VPierucci@co.slo.ca.us with further questions.

Q: Must the testing occur during the unvaccinated employees' normal work hours, or can we require the employee to complete the testing during their non-paid hours?

A: Waiting for emerging guidance from OSHA.

Q: *Should we require nasal swab or saliva tests?*

A Either option will suffice, though it is difficult to find rapid tests (saliva tests) locally.

Q: *The State notice is clear that an employee cannot self-attest whether or not the employee is vaccinated – the employee must provide evidence to the employer. Can the employer require the employee to provide confirmation of testing and then the results to us, or would it be merely the “honor system” through a written declaration / self-attestation?*

A: It is our understanding that employees must show evidence of a negative test.

Vaccine FAQs and Resources:

- Local FAQ, RecoverSLO: <https://www.recoverslo.org/en/vaccine-faqs.aspx>
- Public Health Collaborative: <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/faq/>
- Link to 7/29/21 news briefing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_gLvclG6c0

New materials addressing prevalent vaccine concerns:

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

Future of Task Force Meetings

4th Weds of each month is being held for updates and input, with the option of cancelling meetings if determined unnecessary.

Next meeting: August 25, 2021 10:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting notes, and slides available at:

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

Adjourned at 11:25am.