



COVID-19 VACCINE TASK FORCE

COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force Meeting #15

September 22nd, 2021

10:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting Minutes

Task Force Committee Members Attendees

Emergency Services

Vince Pierucci, EMS - *Absent*

Chief Jonathan Stornetta, Fire - *Absent*

Sheriff Ian Parkinson, Law Enforcement

Bioethicist

Luis Ochoa, MD - *Absent*

Community Health Centers

Stephen Clarke, MD - *Absent*

Jose Guzman

(Maria Garcia)

Pharmacies

(Maronee Hollister, PharmD) - *Absent*

Long Term Care

Karen Jones, Ombudsman, SLO County

Business Community

Kristen Yetter, Promega Biosciences - *Absent*

Occupational Health

Brian Roberts, MD, MedStop

Hospitals

Mark Lisa, Tenet - *Absent*

Health Insurers

Paul Jaconette, CenCal - *Absent*

Terri Howell, CenCal

Nicole Bennet, CenCal - *Absent*

Gaby Labraña, CenCal - *Absent*

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 - *Absent*

Monsignor Ed Callahan - *Absent*

Organizations serving racial and ethnic groups

Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, Latinx - *Absent*

Cheryl Vines, NAACP - *Absent*

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)

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

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

Agriculture

Brent Burchett, Farm Bureau

Transportation

Geoff Straw, SLORTA

COVID-19 Status in SLO County as of 9/22/21

Dr. Borenstein reported that the County is experiencing a slight reduction in COVID-19 cases. 1,120 people were diagnosed with COVID-19 over the past two weeks. While SLO County has seen a drop in the number of hospitalizations, there have been 32 deaths in the past month (since 8/22/21). Currently, 27 people are hospitalized, 11 of which are in the ICU and 8 on ventilators. In the past week, SLO County's case rate has dropped slightly compared to late August's case rate, signaling that case counts may have peaked, and the County may be on the downhill side of the curve. To date, 315 people have died due to COVID-19 and the County has many deaths still pending final certification.

Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Cases, CA

Breakthrough cases, COVID-19 in fully vaccinated individuals, do occur but much less frequently than in those who are unvaccinated. Moreover, those breakthrough cases are more likely to have either mild or no symptoms and are much less likely to be hospitalized from the virus. See more at the CA Department of Public [Health's Post-Vaccine COVID-19 Cases page](#).

Unvaccinated individuals are 8x more likely to be infected by COVID-19, 10-12x more likely to be hospitalized, and 20x more likely to die than fully vaccinated individuals. This data suggests vaccinations are a primary strategy against COVID-19 infection and related complications.

For the week of August 29th - September 4th, the average daily COVID-19 case rate among unvaccinated Californians was 71 per 100,000 and the average daily COVID-19 case rate among fully

vaccinated Californians was 8.9 per 100,000. Unvaccinated individuals encompass a majority of California's COVID-19 cases.

Vaccination Rates by Age in SLO County

The numbers below indicate the percent of people fully vaccinated on 9/20/21.

75+:	76%
65-74:	81%
50-64:	70%
40-49:	67%
30-39:	44%
18-29:	55%
12-17:	51%

SLO County Full Vaccination Rate = 63.2% compared to CA at 69.1%. The gap between SLO County's vaccination rate and that of the state is starting to close. 73,070 SLO County residents have not yet been vaccinated.

Vaccination Rates by City

The list below includes the percent of individuals either fully or partially vaccinated on 9/20/21. Population data is based on DoF Population estimates.

Creston:	45%
San Miguel:	46%
Shandon:	50%
Atascadero:	51%
San Simeon:	53%
Paso Robles:	53%
Santa Margarita:	54%
Grover Beach:	55%
Oceano:	56%
Los Osos:	60%
Arroyo Grande:	61%
Templeton:	62%
Nipomo:	65%
Cayucos:	64%
Morro Bay:	67%
Pismo Beach:	66%
Cambria:	72%
SLO* (93401):	73%

*SLO (93405) and Avila are not included in this list due to errors in data.

Public Health Community Testing Sites

For the week of September 13th – September 17th, the weekly average COVID-19 testing was reported by the following sites: 560 for San Luis Obispo, 332 for Paso Robles, and 206 for Grover Beach.

Announcement: Testing site to open in Morro Bay on Monday, 9/27/2021.

Location: Morro Bay Veterans Memorial Bldg, 209 Surf St. Hours: 7am – 7pm (closed 11-12 & 4-5pm)

Third Doses

Third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for about 3% of the population who are moderate to severely immunocompromised due to specific conditions, at least 28 days after receiving their second Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. Individuals who are immunocompromised are much likely to mount an immune response to the 2-dose series, thus may not have achieved effective immunity. New data shows a third dose of mRNA vaccines helps increase vaccine effectiveness for those who have [these conditions](#).

Third doses of COVID-19 vaccines are currently available at local pharmacies and by [appointment at Public Health clinics](#). Those who qualify for the third dose can schedule an appointment through MyTurn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255. Third doses are not currently available as walk-ins or at mobile/pop up vaccine clinics.

Both Pfizer and Moderna are available for third doses.

Boosters/Additional Doses

Booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are currently being discussed by the CDC for people six – eight months after their second dose. Booster doses are different from third doses in that they are intended people who *did* have an effective immune response, but immunity may be waning.

While vaccines continue to offer very strong protection against severe disease and death, some studies have noted protection against infection may decrease over time (waning immunity), like what happens with other vaccines. Booster doses are being discussed for mRNA vaccines (Moderna and Pfizer). Officials are still collecting information on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and don't know yet if it will require a booster.

On September 17th, the FDA's vaccine advisory committee met and recommended authorizing **Pfizer** booster vaccines for persons aged 65+ and those working in high-risk congregate settings who completed the 2-dose series at least six months earlier. This, however, is the first step in a multi-step process. CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is reviewing the data and will make a formal recommendation to the CDC as soon as today (9/23/21). After that decision, California Department of Public Health and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup will also review the data and make their determination. At that point the County will announce plans for administering boosters to these groups.

Vaccine Eligibility & Timeline Assumptions

There are several anticipated federal changes to vaccine eligibility. The following are estimations and have not been determined:

1. Boosters are expected to become available for persons who received the Pfizer series aged 65+ as early as September 23rd, 2021.
2. Boosters for persons age 65+ who received the Moderna series are projected to be approved in October 2021.
3. Vaccine eligibility for ages 5-11 is anticipated for approval mid-October 2021.
4. Vaccine eligibility for ages 0-4 is estimated for approval in December 2021.

Potential Scenario: 6 Month Booster Eligibility

These projections will affect San Luis Obispo County's vaccine response in the coming months. For instance, peak daily demand for vaccines could increase to approx. 3,700 doses/day in October when Pfizer and Moderna boosters and Pfizer is approved for children aged 5-11. This is noticeably higher

than the County's historical peak of 2,800 doses/day during the winter surge with 3 mass clinics in operation.

SLO County Vaccine Eligibility Planning

Prospective vaccine uptake has been considered for September-October timeline. Vaccine demand could be as high as 83,391 doses due to potential changes in vaccine eligibility. By comparison, SLO County's current average vaccine uptake was 1,729 doses/day for the week of September 13th – 17th. Vaccine supply is anticipated to meet this projected demand.

Prepping for Booster Availability

Public Health remains focused on reaching residents who are unvaccinated, as 37% of eligible residents are unvaccinated or haven't received their 2nd dose of a two-dose series. The County will prioritize booster shot access for the most vulnerable residents and those at highest risk for hospitalization and death.

While partnerships with health care systems and mass vaccination sites helped to quickly vaccinate thousands of individuals per day earlier in the year, boosters can roll out more slowly as most vaccinated persons continue to have substantial protection against severe disease. At this time, SLO County is not anticipating mass vaccination operations of the size and scale of earlier mass clinics for booster administration.

Instead, the County looks to provider partners, pediatricians, pharmacies to assist with booster and pediatric vaccine administration. Public Health clinics will open on Saturdays beginning in October to accommodate an expected increase in demand. Boosters will be available at Public Health clinics by appointment only.

Pediatricians are preparing to accommodate age 5-11 eligibility. California's statewide survey for health providers and pharmacies will help gauge capacity and prepare for increased demand. SLO County of Public Health is preparing to increase clinic staff and phone assistance center staff to meet the demand.

Childcare, K-12 and Higher Education Update

K-12 & Childcare Settings

Dr. Brescia and Dr. Borenstein met with Superintendents regarding outbreaks, prevention strategies, and planning for elementary school age vaccination. Dr. Borenstein proposed having vaccine clinics in proximity to elementary school locations. Dr. Brescia indicated that students have a high compliance rate with safety protocols. Outbreaks do not significantly appear to be the result of classroom transmission. Contact tracing investigation of cases indicates transmission is happening in extracurricular settings such as sleep overs, birthday parties, athletics and youth sports, performing arts programs. Staffing shortages continue to pose the greatest challenges.

College Settings – Cal Poly

CSU policy requires all students, staff and faculty be vaccinated or have a medical or religious exemption. Masks are mandatory indoors on campus. All students, regardless of vaccination status must present a negative test upon arrival for fall semester. Additional recommendations are available for Cal Poly's athletic and performing art programs.

To date, 95.9% of Cal Poly students residing on campus, 91.8% of students residing off-campus, and 82.6% faculty/staff are *fully* vaccinated.

Updated guidance was issued this week:

1. Childcare ([English/Spanish](#))
2. [Youth Sports and Extracurricular Activities](#) (Fact Sheet Summary: [English/Spanish](#))
3. [Performing Arts](#) (Fact Sheet Summary: [English/Spanish](#))
4. [Large Gatherings](#) (Fact Sheet Summary: [English/Spanish](#))

Healthcare Provider Updates

CenCal Health has developed a Vaccine Response Plan to support vaccine uptake in SLO and Santa Barbara Counties. Their primary strategy is increasing amount of healthcare providers who will administer vaccine. CenCal must increase amount of enlisted healthcare providers to 30% by December 2021. Other strategies include vaccine promotion among members, incentives for vaccine administrators and vaccine recipients.

Long term care and hospital facilities are expected to offer booster doses for their residents and staff. SLO County Public Health will assist partners in implementing vaccine uptake. Staffing shortages due to the [healthcare provider vaccine mandate](#), being enforced September 30th, may pose a challenge.

CHC Jose Guzman indicated Pfizer vaccines are now available in 3 CHC pediatric locations: Del Mar CHC clinic in Oceano, Paso Robles CHC, and Templeton CHC.

Provider update: most private pediatric practices are now offering in-office vaccines. Since CHC is now offering Pfizer, more pediatricians will have vaccines available for their eligible patients. Adult health care provider practices are moving more slowly.

Vaccine Outreach and PSA Campaigns

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

- [Paso Robles Fire Chief \(and Vaccine Task Force member\) Jonathan Stornetta](#)
- RACE Matters: [Why I Got the Vax](#) | [Get the Facts](#)
- [Vax4Us Central Coast PSA](#)
- [Patrick Laird, local athlete, and NFL player](#)

Expansion of Vaccine Task Force

The Vaccine Task Force was originally established to act as an advisory body as decisions were being made about vaccine eligibility. It was initially discussed to expand the Vaccine Task Force for broadening vaccine outreach. However, membership of the Vaccine Task Force will remain closed for now. This decision was in consideration of members' feedback.

Vaccine FAQs and Resources:

- COVID-19 information for SLO County: <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/covid19.aspx>
- Local FAQ, RecoverSLO: <https://www.recoverslo.org/en/vaccine-faqs.aspx>
- Testing information: <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/should-i-be-tested.aspx>
- Third Dose information: <https://www.recoverslo.org/en/third-dose-of-the-covid-19-vaccine.aspx>
- Tough FAQs: <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/faq/>

Reliable 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 Meetings

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

Next meeting: October 27, 2021 10:30AM- 11:30AM

Meeting notes, and slides available at:

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

Adjourned at 11:18am.