HCPWG & HPP CHADOC Update

Date: November 4, 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: 29,633 Current Active Cases: 315
    b. There are currently 22 COVID-19 patients hospitalized with 8 in the ICU
    c. We are beginning to transition to a more streamlined organizational structure to support our continued COVID-19 response.

2. **Epidemiological Update – Jessie Harris, County of San Luis Obispo Epidemiologist**
    a. COVID-19 cases are slowly increasing, with the expectation that upcoming holidays may bring a rise.
    b. SLO Public Health Lab is performing Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), which has provided insights into which variants are circulating in SLO County. As the primary source of variant data for the County at this time, the lab expanded its WGS capabilities which is providing extremely insightful information.
    c. Most variants are delta, including AY sub-lineages.
    d. Since January 1, 2021 there has been one confirmed influenza case.

3. **Healthcare Systems Branch Update - Dr. Rick Rosen, Healthcare Systems Branch Director**
    a. The State released updated testing guidance on 10/29 that can be found here: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Updated-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance.aspx This guidance removes some of the requirements for PCR confirmation of antigen tests.
        a. Positive antigen tests in asymptomatic individuals no longer need a confirmatory PCR.
        b. PCR confirmation should still be considered for negative antigen tests in symptomatic individuals depending on their circumstances.
            • PCR confirmation of negative antigen tests in symptomatic people is still required for healthcare and other high-risk settings.
    b. The number of outbreaks has been staying steady.
        a. There are two current outbreaks in SNFs
    c. The COVID-19 activity in schools continues to be brisk and is not decreasing.
    d. There has been a lot of COVID-19 activity in AG recently.

4. **Communicable Disease Branch Update – Laurie Salo, Communicable Disease Branch Director**
    a. Continue prioritizing the following groups for contact tracing:

       a. 0-18 year olds

       b. 65+ year olds

       c. Workers in congregate settings/Healthcare workers

  b. Texting all positive cases with instructions in case they are unable to be called in a timely manner.

5. **Vaccine Branch Update – Christine Gaiger, Vaccine Branch Director**

  a. We continue to do mobile clinics for underserved areas and or groups.

  b. Have done flu and COVID clinics at school sites

  c. Will start vaccinating 5-11yr olds next week.

  d. Have 3 static clinic sites at the SLOPHD and Grover PHD and as of 11/3 at Paso Train station.

6. **Lab Branch Update – Dr. James Beebe, Lab Branch Director**

  a. The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Laboratory continues to support SARS-CoV-2 outbreak testing.

       a. PCR tests in 2021: 18,998 with 872 positives

       b. PCR tests in prior month (ending October 31): 1,674 with 32 positives

       c. FDA-authorized tests in current use involve the Hologic Aptima test, CDC FluSC2 test, Cepheid Xpert Xpress test, and the Biofire Respiratory Panel.

  b. The laboratory has increased sequencing capacity by integrating the Clear Dx instrument into routine use.

       a. SARS-CoV-2 sequencing surveillance: 506 specimens, with 94% (478) confirmed as Delta or Delta sublineages. Most specimens were collected from August to October 2021.

  c. Influenza surveillance for the 2021-2022 season began on October 3. Surveillance of influenza will be coupled with SARS-CoV-2.

  d. The laboratory is currently verifying the Roche Cobas 6800 instrument for PCR testing.

7. **EMS Branch Update – Michael Groves, EMS Branch Director**
   No update at this time.

8. **Equity Branch – Jen Miller, Equity Branch Director**

  a. Identify neighborhoods most impacted by COVID-19 and focus on increasing vaccination rates

  b. Support CenCal Health and CHC to increase vaccination rates among Medi-Cal beneficiaries

  c. Deepen partnerships with community-based organizations to build upon network of trusted messengers: Farm Worker Outreach Task Force (16+ organizations) and Vaccine Task Force (30 members across sectors)

  d. Work with partners and volunteers to conduct public education about vaccines to reach individuals in targeted communities

       a. 46 vaccine outreach volunteers collectively walked over 400 miles door-

knocking with vaccine information

    b.   Distributed more than 20,000 materials to 7,500 homes and businesses

    c.   156 mobile clinics held

9. **Environmental Health Branch Update – Liz Pozzebon, Environmental Health Branch Director**

No update at this time.

10. **Testing Branch Update – Maya Craig-Lauer, Testing Branch Director**

    a.   I will be transitioning out of the testing unit and back to my normal HPP duties.

        b.   Amber Carbo will be the new lead of the testing unit (acarbo@co.slo.ca.us).

    c.   We are currently operating 4 community testing sites M-F:

        d.   San Luis Obispo Vets' Hall – 801 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo

            •   Open 7AM-7PM

        e.   Paso Robles Train Station – 800 Pine St, Paso Robles

            •   Open 7AM-7PM

        f.   Grover Beach – 1336 Ramona Ave #A, Grover Beach

            •   Open 7AM-7PM

        g.   Morro Bay Vets' Hall – 209 Surf St, Morro Bay

            •   Open Monday 7AM-12:30PM

            •   Open Tuesday-Thursday 7AM-7PM

    b.   Testing site utilization has been decreasing since around the end of September.

        a.   We will increase testing capacity as needed should demand increase.

    c.   We received a shipment of Cue rapid PCR tests from the State that we are distributing to partners in possession of Cue Readers and using internally.

    d.   During the month of October, we tested at 25 outbreak sites in response to 15 separate outbreaks.

11. **Volunteer Update – Sara Nygaard, Volunteer Unit**

No update at this time.

THE NEXT ALL COALITION MEETING (DHCC) WILL BE ON January 6, 2022.
THE NEXT HCPWG & HCC MEETING WILL BE ON December 2, 2021.