



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 13, 2020
Contact: Michelle Shoresman, Public Information Officer,
805-781-5192, mshoresman@co.slo.ca.us

County of SLO Declares Public Health Emergency, Local Emergency

The San Luis Obispo County Health Officer declared a public health emergency today and the County Emergency Services Director also proclaimed a local emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While we do not yet have a confirmed case of COVID-19 here, this official declaration and proclamation helps us access additional resources to support current and future local COVID-19 response efforts," County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein said. "Our response efforts began over a month ago. It's only a matter of time before our county sees a case as well, and we are prepared for that eventuality."

The declaration will also allow County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein to issue specific public health orders to limit the spread of the virus. The County Public Health Department has been actively monitoring returning travelers and identifying others who may be potentially at risk, working closely with local health care providers, facilitating and performing laboratory testing for the virus, and working with local cities, school districts and other organizations to prepare and protect the community. In addition, the Public Health Department has begun increasing the number of tests conducted by its laboratory in San Luis Obispo. The increase in local testing is a direct result of Dr. Borenstein's direction this week to open testing to anyone referred by a local medical professional to Public Health.

"We have also partially activated our Emergency Operations Center to coordinate our response efforts," said County Emergency Services Director and CAO Wade Horton. "The health and safety of our community is our number one priority."

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County as of today. In total, County Health officials have monitored 13 people for the virus, and as of Friday, nine are currently being monitored and four have been cleared. The disease caused by the virus has sickened more than 120,000 people around the world, over 1,300 in the United States and nearly 200 in California. The disease has also killed over 4,300 worldwide.

Dr. Borenstein asks that "all residents, businesses and local organizations remain calm, stay informed, and heed our precautions." Visit www.ReadySLO.org for the latest news and information about COVID-19.

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www.slopublichealth.org



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Fecha: 13 de Marzo, 2020
Contacto: Michelle Shoresman, Public Information Officer,
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El Condado de SLO Declara Emergencia de Salud Pública, Emergencia Publica

La Oficial de Salud del Condado de San Luis Obispo declaro hoy una emergencia de salud pública y el Director de Servicios de Emergencia del Condado también proclamo una emergencia local debido a la pandemia COVID-19.

“Mientras aun aquí no tenemos un caso confirmado de COVID-19, esta declaración y proclamación oficial nos ayuda a acceder a recursos adicionales para apoyar los esfuerzos de respuesta locales y futuros de COVID-19” dijo la Dra. Penny Borenstein, Oficial de Salud del Condado. “Nuestros esfuerzos de respuesta comenzaron hace más de un mes. Es solo cuestión de tiempo antes de que nuestro condado vea un caso también, y estemos preparados para esa eventualidad.”

La primera orden del día es acelerar la instalación de una clínica médica en sitio. La declaración también permitirá la oficial de Salud del Condado, Dra. Penny Borenstein, emitir ordenes específicas de salud pública para limitar la propagación del virus. El Departamento de Salud Pública del condado ha estado monitoreando activamente a los viajeros que han regresado e identificando a otros que pueden estar en riesgo, trabajando en estrecha colaboración con los proveedores locales de atención médica, facilitando y realizando pruebas de laboratorio para el virus y trabajando con ciudades locales, distritos escolares y otras organizaciones para preparar y proteger a la comunidad. Además, el Departamento de Salud Pública ha comenzado a aumentar el número de pruebas realizadas por su laboratorio en San Luis Obispo. El aumento de las pruebas locales es un resultado directo de la dirección de la Dra. Borenstein de esta semana de abrir las pruebas a cualquier persona referida por un médico profesional al de Departamento de Salud Publica.

“También hemos activado parcialmente nuestro Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia para estar listos y coordinar esos esfuerzos”, dijo el Director de Servicios de Emergencia del Condado y CAO Wade Horton. “No hay necesidad de entrar en pánico; escuche a los profesionales médicos y profesionales de la salud pública”.

Actualmente no hay casos confirmados de COVID-19 en el condado de San Luis Obispo hasta el día de hoy. Desde el viernes, los funcionarios de salud del condado actualmente están monitoreando a nueve personas para detectar el virus. En total, el Condado de Salud Publica han monitoreado trece personas del virus y hasta hora viernes, nueve están siendo monitoreados y cuatro han sido aclarados del virus.

La enfermedad causada por el virus ha enfermado a as de 120,000 personas en todo el mundo, mas de 1,300 en los Estados Unidos y casi 200 en California. La enfermedad también ha matado a

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más de 4,300 en todo el mundo.

La Dra. Borenstein pide que “todos los residentes, empresas y organizaciones locales mantengan la calma, se mantengan informados y presten atención a nuestras precauciones”. Visite a la pagina www.ReadySLO.org para obtener las ultimas noticias e información sobre COVID-19.

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**DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING THE NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction , or any part thereof, when the health officer determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biological agent, toxin, or radioactive agent; and

WHEREAS, a local health emergency declared by a local health officer pursuant to Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code shall not remain in effect after seven days from the date of this proclamation unless it has been ratified by the governing authority of the local jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of Health and Safety Code section 101080, the Health Officer of the County of San Luis Obispo makes the following findings:

1. A novel coronavirus named " COVID-19" by the World Health Organization ("WHO") was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019.
2. Cases of COVID-19 have been diagnosed in the United States, primarily in individuals who have traveled to other countries, but there have been cases identified of "community spread" of COVID-19 involving individuals who have not traveled overseas and who have no known connections to overseas travel.
3. As of March 12, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") reported 1,323 cases of COVID- 19 in the United States and the California Department of Public Health has reported 198 cases of the virus within the State of California.
4. On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to outbreaks of COVID-19 within the state.
5. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic, presently affecting six continents where sustained transmission of the virus has infected more than 120,000 people and killed more than 4,300 worldwide.
6. The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time; for instance, as of March 12, 2020, the World Health Organization

reported 127,863 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with 80,932 cases in China and the remaining 46,931 cases in 116 other countries; there have been 3,169 deaths in mainland China due to COVID-19, and another 1,549 deaths in other countries (4718 worldwide).

7. Cases of COVID-19 have been identified in the following California counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, Solano, and the City and County of San Francisco. Each of these counties have made declarations of local health emergency or proclamations of local emergency.

8. COVID-19 is considered a very serious health threat because much is unknown about it, e.g., the exact modes of transmission, the factors facilitating human-to-human transmission, the extent of asymptomatic viral shedding, the groups most at risk of serious illness, the attack rate, and the case fatality rate all remain active areas of investigation.

9. The best information to date suggests that: (1) the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; (2) symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and infected individuals have experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death; (3) the CDC believes that symptoms appear two to fourteen days after exposure.

10. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

11. In order to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 within the United States, the CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to countries with sustained transmission.

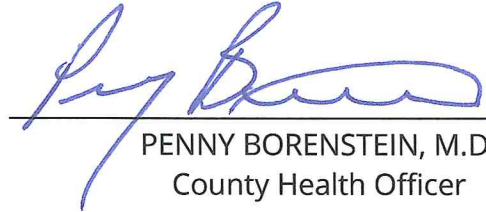
12. On March 12, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued an Executive Order to cancel or postpone non-essential mass gatherings that bring people together in a single room or single space at the same time.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on all of the foregoing information, I, Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer, determine that an imminent and proximate threat to the public health of the citizens of the County of San Luis Obispo presently exists due to the imminent

and likely introduction of COVID-19 within the county, a highly contagious, infectious, communicable disease and hereby declare a local health emergency within the County of San Luis Obispo pursuant to the authority granted by section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code.

Date: 03 - 13 - 2020

Time: 10:00 am



PENNY BORENSTEIN, M.D.
County Health Officer

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code Section 8550 et seq.) and San Luis Obispo County Code Chapter 2.80 authorize the County of San Luis Obispo Emergency Services Director to proclaim a local emergency under certain circumstances as described in Government Code Sections 8558, subdivision (c) and 8630; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8558, subdivision (c), defines a "local emergency" as "the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county . . . caused by . . . conditions . . . [that] are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of [the county] and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat. . ."; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Government Code section 8630, I, Wade Horton, Emergency Services Director of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, hereby find and determine as follows:

1. A novel coronavirus named "COVID-19" by the World Health Organization ("WHO") was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019.
2. Cases of COVID-19 have been diagnosed in the United States, primarily in individuals who have traveled to other countries, but there have been cases identified of "community spread" of COVID-19 involving individuals who have not traveled overseas and who have no known connections to overseas travel.
3. As of March 12, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") reported 1,323 cases of COVID-19 in the United States and 198 cases of the virus within the State of California.
4. On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to outbreaks of COVID-19 within the state, and ordered the suspension of: (1) the provisions of Government Code section 8630 and Health and Safety Code section 101080 mandating that the governing authority of a city or

county review and renew proclamations of local emergency and declarations of local health emergencies as set forth in the governing statutory law; and (2) applicable provisions of the Government Code and Public Contract Code, including but not limited to those provisions related to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements in order to address the effects of COVID-19.

5. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic, presently affecting six continents where sustained transmission of the virus has infected more than 120,000 people and killed more than 4,300 worldwide.

6. The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time; for instance, as of March 12, 2020, the World Health Organization has reported 127,863 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with 80,932 cases in China and the remaining 46,931 cases in 116 other countries; there have been 3,169 deaths in mainland China due to COVID-19, and another 1,549 deaths in other countries (4,718 worldwide); as of March 10, 2020.

7. Cases of COVID-19 have now been identified in the following California counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, Solano, and the City and County of San Francisco. Each of these counties have made declarations of local health emergency or proclamations of local emergency.

8. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

9. The best information to date indicates the following: (1) the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; (2) symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath; (3) infected individuals have experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death; and (4) the CDC believes that symptoms appear two to fourteen days after exposure.

10. In order to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the United States, the CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to countries with sustained transmission.

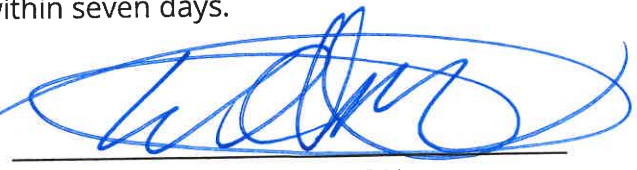
11. On March 12, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued an Executive Order to cancel or postpone non-essential mass gatherings that bring people together in a single room or single space at the same time.

12. In light of the foregoing, the Health Officer of the County of San Luis Obispo has determined that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the likely introduction of COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County, and has issued a declaration of a local health emergency in order to best protect the public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, I HEREBY PROCLAIM A LOCAL EMERGENCY pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (starting with Government Code Section 8550) and Chapter 2.80 of Title 2 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, in the entire area of the County of San Luis Obispo due to the existence of conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons within the entire area of the county caused by an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the likely introduction of COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County, and do hereby invoke all of the powers and mechanisms set forth in the California Emergency Services Act and in the San Luis Obispo County Code Chapter 2.80, and hereby order that:

1. All of said powers and mechanisms set forth in section 2.80 may hereafter be utilized by authorized personnel of the County of San Luis Obispo;
2. A copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency be posted on all outside public access doors of the new County Government Center and in one public place within any area of the County of San Luis Obispo within which this Proclamation applies, and that personnel of said county shall endeavor to make copies of this Proclamation available to news media;
3. This Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be effective immediately and shall be ratified by the Board of Supervisors within seven days.

Date: 13 MARCH 2020



WADE HORTON
Emergency Service Director

Time: 10:00AM