



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council **DATE:** September 21, 2020
FROM: Matthew Bronson City Manager
PREPARED BY: Matthew Bronson, City Manager
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Response Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive an update on the countywide and City response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

The City continues its work in addressing the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic following the direction of the County Public Health Department in coordination with other local agencies. The following is an update on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the county as well as the City's continued response since the last Council meeting on August 24. This update is provided for the Council's information and staff can address questions that the Council may have.

Countywide Status

As of September 16, San Luis Obispo County has 3,316 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 10 current hospitalizations and 183 individuals at home and 3,091 individuals recovered (approximately 93%). The increase in the number of confirmed cases has slowed considerably over the past month with the number of current cases less than half of the number in August. Surrounding counties continue to have significantly more cases including Monterey (9,089), Santa Barbara (8,741), Kern (30,916), and Kings (4,073). Just under half (1,464) of the confirmed cases in this county are in North County with 792 in Paso Robles and 672 in Atascadero, Templeton, and elsewhere. In South County, there has been a total of 842 confirmed cases with 330 in Nipomo, 202 in Arroyo Grande, 152 in Grover Beach, 103 in Oceano, and 54 in Pismo Beach. The County shifted its South County testing site earlier this month from the Ramona Garden Park Center in Grover Beach to the South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande with an average of 100 tests conducted daily. On a South County comparison, case numbers in Grover Beach per 1,000 residents (11.2) is similar to Arroyo Grande while lower than Oceano (14.3) and higher than Pismo Beach (6.6).

In late August, the State of California released a new approach for determining what businesses can and cannot open safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach, entitled *Blueprint for a Safer Economy*, replaces the previous *Resilience Roadmap* though continues to use a four-tier system for determining reopening with related industry sector guidelines. Under the *Blueprint*, every county in the state is assigned to a tier based on its test positivity and adjusted case rate. At a minimum, counties must remain in a tier for at least three weeks before moving forward. Data is reviewed weekly and tiers are updated on Tuesdays. To move forward, a county must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks. If a county's metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned a more restrictive tier.

Below in Table 1 is a listing of the four tiers of the *Blueprint* approach and the two metrics used to determine placement (new cases per 100,000 population and percentage of positive tests):

Table 1

County risk level	New cases	Positive tests
<p>WIDESPREAD</p> <p>Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed</p>	<p>More than 7</p> <p>daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>More than 8%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>
<p>SUBSTANTIAL</p> <p>Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed</p>	<p>4 - 7</p> <p>daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>5 - 8%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>
<p>MODERATE</p> <p>Some indoor business operations are open with modifications</p>	<p>1 - 3.9</p> <p>daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>2 - 4.9%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>
<p>MINIMAL</p> <p>Most indoor business operations are open with modifications</p>	<p>Less than 1</p> <p>daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>Less than 2%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>

Currently, San Luis Obispo County is in the “purple” or “Widespread” tier along with 28 other counties including surrounding counties. The restrictions and limitations in this “Widespread” tier are similar to the ones that the county had been under as part of the previous “monitoring list” including closures of indoor uses or activities at gyms and fitness centers, places of worship, protests, offices for non-essential sectors, personal care services, and schools. Indoor operations at restaurants remain closed while hair salons and barbershops are now allowed to operate indoors again. SLO County this week has met the metrics to move down to the “red” or “Substantial” tier and if our county can meet these metrics for a second consecutive week, then the county will move to the “Substantial” tier which allows for 50% indoor occupancy for retail, indoor dining of up to 25% occupancy, indoor activities at gyms and fitness centers of up to 10% occupancy, indoor operations at personal care services, and other indoor uses. Continued improvement in the metrics will further enable the county to move to lower tiers with fewer restrictions though worsening of the metrics consequently could lead to going back to higher tiers. Attachment 1 shows the listing of what is allowed under each tier.

The City is monitoring these trends carefully and working with the County and other local agencies. County Public Health continues its work in serving as the lead enforcement agency countywide including carrying periodic inspections to ensure that businesses comply with State guidance. The City continues to provide active enforcement of this guidance through the City’s Code Compliance Officer. The City remains committed to helping achieve community compliance with State and local orders focused on education and awareness with enforcement action as a

last resort if other steps are not successful. This approach includes frequent communications through social media and other platforms to inform the community of public health guidance and encourage compliance. Staff's assessment continues to be that businesses overall are complying with the public health requirements including the face coverings ordinance that mirrors the State's guidance mandating face coverings usage in high risk environments including indoor public spaces.

Staff is also continuing to implement the Council's direction provided at the July 27th special meeting to help businesses affected by the State order to use outdoor spaces and to date the City has approved 20 temporary use permits for outdoor business use and set up two outdoor dining parklets on West Grand Avenue near 2nd Street and 10th Street. Staff is also working with businesses to construct large tents for outdoor dining and construct permanent outdoor structures on private property eligible for a matching grant of up to \$5,000. The Council previously concurred with staff's plan to use \$125,000 in the City's CARES Act funding for a second round of business microgrants following the initial round in June using \$150,000 in SB 1090 funds and General Fund reserves. This second round of microgrants provides up to \$5,000 to help businesses with COVID-19 financial impacts. Applications closed on September 18 and the City and Chamber will review the applications and make funding decisions by late September.

City Response Update

The City continues to provide services to our community in accordance with statewide orders and public health guidelines though City facilities including City Hall and Community Centers remain closed to public access. Given the current case numbers, City employees are working predominantly remotely while the City continues to provide services for the public. The public can continue to call the City's main telephone line at (805) 473-4550 or send an email to cityhall@groverbeach.org to ask questions or get more information about the City's response or services during this time. Though the City's sports courts and skate park are open under distancing requirements, playgrounds remain closed as they are not yet allowed to be open by the State though staff is working with fitness instructors on providing outdoor fitness classes at City parks. Also given the current case numbers, there is no specified timeframe for resuming public access to City facilities including the public counter at City Hall, in-person Council and Commission meetings, and walk-in visits to the Police Station and Community Center.

With regards to parks and recreation facilities and services, the Ramona and Community Centers will reopen for use when allowed by the State though limited to groups of no more than 10 people with the Tiny Tots preschool program reopening as a childcare facility at some point under public health guidelines for day care facilities. The City canceled the Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series along with in-person fall events and will likely cancel winter holiday events as well given the expected continued limitations on community gatherings. The City will provide ample communication in advance about these potential cancellations.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the Council taking action on this item.

ALTERNATIVES

The Council has the following alternatives to consider:

1. Receive information on the updated countywide and City response to the COVID-19 pandemic; or
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act.

ATTACHMENTS

1. *Blueprint for a Safer Economy* List of Business Tiers

SECTORS	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
Critical Infrastructure	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications
Limited Services	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications
Hair Salons & Barbershops	Open Indoors with modifications	Open indoors with modifications	Open indoors with modifications	Open indoors with modifications
All Retail (including critical infrastructure, except standalone grocers)	Open Indoors with modifications • Max 25% capacity	Open Indoors with modifications • Max 50% capacity	Open Indoors with modifications	Open Indoors with modifications

SECTORS	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
Shopping Centers (Malls, Destination Centers, Swap Meets)	Open Indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 25% capacity • Closed common areas • Closed food courts 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity • Closed common areas • Reduced capacity food courts (see restaurants) 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed common areas • Reduced capacity food courts (see restaurants) 	Open Indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced capacity food courts (see restaurants)
Personal Care Services	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications	Open indoors with modifications	Open indoors with modifications
Museums, Zoos, and aquariums	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor activities max 25% capacity 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor activities max 50% capacity 	Open indoors with modifications

SECTORS	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
Places of Worship	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity
Movie theaters	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open Indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity
Hotels and lodging	Open with modifications	Open with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +Fitness centers (+10%) 	Open with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +Fitness centers (+25%) • +Indoor pools 	Open with modifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +Fitness Centers (50%) • +Spa facilities etc
Gyms and Fitness Centers	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 10% capacity 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 25% capacity • +indoor pools 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +Saunas • +Spas • +Steam rooms • Max 50% capacity

SECTORS	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
Restaurants	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity
Wineries	Outdoor Only with modifications	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 25% capacity indoors, or 100 people, whichever is fewer 	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity or 200 people indoors, whichever is fewer
Bars, Breweries, and Distilleries (where no meal provided) (follow restaurants where meal is provided)	Closed	Closed	Open Outdoors with modifications	Open indoors with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity
Family Entertainment Centers	Outdoor Only with modifications e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kart Racing • Mini Golf • Batting Cages 	Outdoor Only with modifications e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kart Racing • Mini Golf • Batting Cages 	Open Indoors for naturally distanced activities with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 25% capacity • Bowling Alleys • Climbing Walls 	Open indoors for activities with increased risk of proximity and mixing with modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 50% capacity • Arcade Games • Ice and roller skating • Indoor playgrounds

SECTORS	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
Cardrooms, Satellite Wagering	Outdoor Only with modifications	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications • Max 25% capacity	Open indoors with modifications • Max 50% capacity
Offices	Remote	Remote	Open indoors with modifications • Encourage telework	Open indoors with modifications • Encourage telework
Professional sports	Open • Without live audiences • With modifications	Open • Without live audiences • With modifications	Open • Without live audiences • With modifications	Open • Without live audiences • With modifications