



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council      **DATE:** September 27, 2021  
**FROM:** Matthew Bronson, City Manager  
**PREPARED BY:** Matthew Bronson, City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Response Update

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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### **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 regular Council meeting on September 13.

As of September 21, San Luis Obispo County has 27,698 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 29 current hospitalizations including 9 in the ICU and 882 individuals at home and 26,332 individuals recovered (approximately 95%). This is only a 4.5% increase in cases over the past two weeks and a reduction in hospitalizations by almost half and a reduction of almost two-thirds since hospitalizations peaked on August 31. The county's 14-day average of new COVID-19 cases has also dropped considerably to 73 which is half the level from two weeks ago and is the lowest level since mid-August.

In South County, there has been a total of 6,545 confirmed cases (approximately 24% of countywide cases) with 2,023 in Arroyo Grande, 2,021 in Nipomo, 1,185 in Grover Beach, 847 in Oceano, and 468 in Pismo Beach. Current case numbers in Grover Beach per 1,000 residents (88) continue to be lower than Arroyo Grande (112), Nipomo (115), and Oceano (118) though higher than Pismo Beach (57). There has been a 4.4% increase in cases in Grover Beach over the past two weeks similar to the countywide trends in case numbers.

Conditions in the county and throughout the state have improved over the past two weeks following the peak of COVID-19 metrics of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths earlier this month from the Delta variant. California now has the lowest rate of transmission of any state and has one of the highest vaccination rates. Locally, the County's mask order for indoor public spaces remains in effect ([9.1.2021-Health-Order-6---Mask-Mandate.pdf \(emergencyslo.org\)](#)) and covers all businesses, government offices, churches, and other indoor facilities with limited exemptions such as working alone in an office or room, actively eating or drinking, or specific medical reasons. There is not a specific end date to the Order as it will be in effect until extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended by the County Health Officer. Complaints about lack of mask usage within the city will be forwarded to the Code Compliance Officer for response which will focus on outreach and education with a goal of achieving voluntary compliance.

As of September 20, County Public Health has administered 173,683 total doses of the vaccine in addition to doses administered by private pharmacies. Approximately 63% of residents in San Luis Obispo County eligible for the vaccine (12 years of age and up) have been fully vaccinated with 71% partially vaccinated and 29% unvaccinated. In zip code 93433 which comprises Grover Beach, 57% of eligible individuals are fully vaccinated with 66% partially vaccinated. The vaccination rate in Grover Beach is increasing but is still below the countywide average and the City continues to work with the County to work on targeted outreach and mobile vaccination clinics in addition to the Public Health clinic at 286 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street. One of the County's three testing sites is also located in Grover Beach at 1336 Ramona Avenue.

City Hall counter hours continue to be 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday to provide an in-person option for the public while encouraging people to access information or conduct business with the City online or over the phone. These reduced hours also are tied to limited staffing coverage at the City Hall counter for the time being. Given current conditions, Council meetings will continue to be virtual for now with a call-in function available for the public to make comments with a return to in-person meetings once it is safe and prudent to do so based on case numbers and other metrics.

Lastly, the City is continuing with planned special events for now but is modifying events as needed such as live streaming the September 11<sup>th</sup> memorial event instead of having an open public event. The City will continue with other special events in a safe outdoor manner this fall and winter.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Council has the following alternatives to consider:

1. Receive an update on the 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.