



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council      **DATE:** February 28, 2022  
**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 February 15.

As of February 22, San Luis Obispo County has had a total of 51,995 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 20 current hospitalizations including two in the ICU and 738 active cases at home. This is only a 5% increase in total cases over the past two weeks with a 53% decrease in active cases. Hospitalizations have also decreased by 42% over the past two weeks and the 14-day average number of new daily cases is now 163 which is significantly below from the all-time high of 649 on January 28.

In South County, there has been a total of 14,125 confirmed cases (approximately 27% of countywide cases) with 4,657 in Arroyo Grande, 4,245 in Nipomo, 2,501 in Grover Beach, 1,624 in Oceano, and 1,098 in Pismo Beach. Current case numbers in Grover Beach per 1,000 residents (192) continue to be lower than Oceano (232), Arroyo Grande (259), and Nipomo (265), though higher than Pismo Beach (137). There has been approximately a 4% increase in cases in Grover Beach over the past two weeks which is consistent with countywide trends in case numbers.

COVID metrics in January including cases, hospitalizations, and deaths were at the highest level since the beginning of the pandemic as predicted due to the transmission of the omicron variant. However, conditions in the past couple of weeks have continued to improve rapidly as seen in the decrease in hospitalizations from the peak experienced in January. This downward trend in hospitalization and cases was expected from the experience with the omicron variant in other parts of the country and in other countries. Given these improvements, the statewide mask order for indoor public places expired on February 16. This mandate remains in place for unvaccinated individuals as well as for all individuals in higher risk settings such as public transit, child care centers, homeless shelters, and schools. San Luis Obispo County announced a similar lifting of the County's mask order for indoor public spaces in alignment with the State.

Vaccines are available for everyone ages 5 and up with boosters also available for ages 12 and up who received their vaccination five months ago. Approximately 67% of residents in San Luis Obispo County ages 5 and up have been fully vaccinated with 74% of residents at least partially

vaccinated and 27% unvaccinated. In addition, approximately 51% of fully vaccinated residents have received a booster. Approximately 64% of residents ages 5 and up in Grover Beach are fully vaccinated and 71% partially vaccinated for reference. The rate of vaccination in the county continues to increase slowly towards the desired goal of 70%-80% of residents fully vaccinated. Vaccinations are available at the Public Health clinic at 286 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street and one of the County's three testing sites is located at 1336 Ramona Avenue.

City Hall counter hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday to provide in-person public access during normal business hours in addition to access electronically through email or on the City's website or over the phone. The counter is closed on Fridays to allow additional time for staff to process applications, issue permits, and carry out other administrative tasks. Employees are working primarily in the office however remote work is being carried out by some employees particularly with caregiving needs or who work in more open workspaces. Beginning with a special meeting on March 7, Council meetings will return to in-person meetings in the month of March with a call-in function available for the public to make comments without attending the meeting in person.

### **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.