



COVID-19 Key Messages & Talking Points

01/20/2021

5:00 p.m.

In addition to keeping the public safe, vaccine distribution remains our highest priority and we continue to make more appointments available to more communities.

- This week, we opened a second vaccine clinic at the Paso Robles Events Center. Next week we will add a clinic at Arroyo Grande High School, starting Mon, Jan. 25.
- This week, we also began Phase 1b by vaccinating people age 75 or older. If you are 75 or older, you can sign up for a vaccine appointment for next week at **RecoverSLO.org**, or call (805) 543-2444. We will open nearly 4,000 more appointments tomorrow at 9 a.m. on a first come, first serve basis. **RTA** (805-541-2544) and **Ride On** (805-541-8747) are providing free transportation for seniors to vaccine appointments.
- We understand that there is a strong desire for vaccine distribution information and have launched a new vaccine dashboard, which will be updated weekly on Mondays, to help: www.recoverslo.org/en/detailed-vaccine-stats.aspx.

Vaccination has been a team effort. We thank our partners for answering the call.

- This vaccination effort has been significant lift for our community, and we are proud of our community stepping up and answering the call.
- Local fire personnel, law enforcement, County Disaster Services Workers, and SLO County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers have helped stand up our vaccine clinics in Paso Robles and Arroyo Grande.
- Dignity Health has also stepped up to administer a limited number of vaccines to residents 75 and older next week. (Information is available at RecoverSLO.org.).

At the State's recommendation, we have "paused" distribution of 4,400 Moderna vaccine doses, which could delay when people get their second dose.

- The State recommended that all vaccine providers "pause" the use of a specific lot of Moderna vaccine after another California county saw a higher-than-usual number of adverse reactions with the specific lot in question.
- SLO County Public Health currently has 4,400 doses of this lot of Moderna vaccine in our supply. We confirmed that none of this lot has been administered in SLO County.
- We will await further guidance from the State before administering any of these doses.

The new COVID variant, L452R, found in other California counties has NOT been found in SLO County.

- We learned today that Orange County specimens were mistakenly reported by the State as coming from SLO County.
- We do not currently know if this variant is being transmitted here in SLO County, but we do know that cases are still surging here. We ask that people continue to protect themselves and their loved ones by following all public health precautions.