



COVID-19 Key Messages & Talking Points

03/24/2021

5:00 p.m.

Please continue to stay vigilant with health precautions during the upcoming Easter holiday.

- We can't afford another surge in COVID-19 cases here in SLO County. Cases are starting to hover, similar to the levels we saw in November, but cases are not decreasing, and this virus is far from done with us.
- We have seen surges in cases after holidays where many people who don't live together gather indoors. We don't want to see another surge that jeopardizes our reopening or risks the health of our loved ones as we are so close to getting through this difficult time.
- If you choose to gather with friends and family, celebrate like a BOSS. Keep your celebration Brief, Outdoors, Small and Symptom-free.

SLO County remains in the Red Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

- Yesterday, the State released its updated metrics for the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) and we remain in the Red Tier at an adjusted case rate of 7.0/100K. Our test positivity metrics are at the orange level, at 2.5% overall and 4.2% in the Health Equity Quartile.
- We have maintained our Red Tier status, but only barely, in part because the State recently changed tier metrics to account for quantity of vaccine given statewide. With increased vaccination, the State is allowing a slightly higher case threshold of 10/100K.
- With these changes, and a decreased adjustment factor due to less testing occurring in our county over the last several weeks, we must work even harder to reduce transmission and get case rates down to move forward into the Orange Tier.

Vaccine eligibility is now open to more people, including anyone age 50 and older.

- SLO County residents age 50 and older (about 50,000 people) are now eligible.
- Those serving in the courts/judicial system in person—including jurors, victim witness workers, bailiffs and others—are now eligible, based on the recommendation of the SLO County Vaccine Task Force. They may select "emergency services" on the sign-up form and bring a recent pay stub or jury summons letter as documentation of their role.
- Some of these new registrants have been able to get appointments this week due to cancellations, and 9,000 more will get appointments for next week.
- We can accept many more registrants, so please sign up if you are newly eligible.
- If you have been in the registry because you were in one of these earlier eligible groups, we have not forgotten you. Members of previously eligible groups will be prioritized for appointments because they have a higher risk of serious outcomes.
- If you are eligible to receive the vaccine, please go to recoverslo.org/vaccine to sign up for the County's vaccine registry or see a list of local pharmacies providing vaccine. You can also call (805) 543-2444 for help.