COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
Wade Horton *County Administrative Officer*

COVID-19 Key Messages & Talking Points

02/11/2021 **9:00 a.m.**

Good news! Anyone living in SLO County who is age 65 and older is now eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccine, but appointments are very limited at this time, so please let the most vulnerable get their shot first.

- The local COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force has determined the next group should include anyone age 65 and older, effective immediately. Health care workers are also still eligible.
- About 38,000 people in our county are between the ages of 65 and 74, but at this time we only have 1,900 first-dose appointments available next week at our Cuesta College COVID-19 vaccine clinic.
- Check for available appointments www.RecoverSLO.org/VaccineAppointments weekdays at 9 a.m.
- Those at higher risk of exposure or serious health outcomes should get their shot first. Everyone in SLO County will have a chance to get vaccinated against COVID-19, but not everyone will be able to get an appointment right away due to limited supply. We thank you for your patience.

New guidance allows worship services to resume indoors, at 25% capacity, in SLO County.

- A recent court ruling means that places of worship may hold indoor services at 25% capacity in purple- or red-tier counties.
- This means in SLO County, indoor services may resume immediately at 25%. Chanting and singing indoors is still not allowed.
- Indoor gatherings still pose substantial risks so virtual or outdoor services still remain the safest option.

Local communities should prepare now for the State to loosen restrictions here, because SLO County may move into the Red Tier as early as next week.

- Yesterday, we received our weekly tier metrics telling us our place in the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.
- While we remain in the Purple Tier for our adjusted case rate, our test positivity rate and health equity metric now meet Orange Tier requirements.
- If we are able to maintain this metric for an additional week, SLO County would qualify for a special health equity exception that places us in the Red Tier, as soon as next Wednesday.