



# COVID-19 Community Update

*A Summary of City News for the week of May 17 - May 23, 2020*

*We are committed to keeping you informed. The following is an update on the City's response to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and reduce the impact on our community. We are all in this together and we all must do our part!*

## More Open, But Not Back to Normal

The County of San Luis Obispo [has announced](#) that it has met the State's criteria to move faster through [Stage 2 of California's Resilience Roadmap](#). With this approval, in-store shopping and dining in restaurants can reopen with some modifications. Under the State's Resilience Roadmap, Stage 2 expansion is phased in gradually. Working with the California Department of Public Health, the County of San Luis Obispo has met the [readiness criteria](#) to open more workplaces. Before reopening, all facilities must:

- Perform a detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan
- Train employees to limit the spread of COVID-19
- Implement individual control measures and screenings, disinfecting protocols and physical distancing guidelines

Local businesses that are currently open or planning to reopen should use the ["Ready to Reopen" toolkit](#) to show how the business is reopening safely under the State's public health guidance. The toolkit includes a printable, single page "Readiness to Reopen" Self-Evaluation & Certification Form for businesses to fill out and keep on site to acknowledge compliance with the State's Resilience Roadmap and related public health guidance specific to their industry. It also includes an "Open and Safe" sign that businesses can print and display.

Prior to reopening, SLO County business owners or managers **must** complete and sign the COVID-19 Self-Evaluation & Certification Form for each facility. By signing this form, the business owner or manager acknowledges compliance with the State's Resilience Roadmap and more specifically indicates that they understand and are implementing State guidance applicable to their industry to help workplaces reopen and operate safely.

Community members still play an important role in continuing to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Please remember to wash your hands frequently, stay home if you are sick, maintain 6 feet of distance from those outside of your household, wear a mask when you can't physically distance and look for businesses with the County Self-Evaluation & Certification signs. Remember, we are in this together and we all must do our part!

## Business Support Resources

We care about our local businesses! To support businesses operating in San Luis Obispo and to answer questions regarding reopening operations, the City has implemented an online [Business Reopening Inquiry form](#). The online form provides business owners the option to request clarification on what operations can be performed at this time and even have a City staff person visit your business! In addition, there is enhanced business support assistance accessible through the Business & Community Hotline. The phone number is **805-783-7835** and is staffed during regular business hours. After hours calls will be returned the next business day.

## Online Safety Tips for Parents

The COVID-19 pandemic has created expanded avenues for predators to find new victims. Children and youth are out of classroom settings and spending more time on the internet. These circumstances increase the exposure to predators online through social media and gaming. Cyber safety education is more important than ever for the prevention of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in the community.

City and County officials encourage parents and caregivers to have a heightened awareness of the websites children are visiting and the people they are in contact with. Having open, regular dialogue with children is important, as well as setting rules that are clear about the expectations for online behavior.

Good cyber safety ground rules for children include:

- Never giving out personal information, such as addresses or phone numbers.
- Never agreeing to meet someone in person who they have only met online without parent or guardian approval.
- Never posting pictures or videos of themselves or others online that parents or guardians would consider inappropriate.
- Telling parents or another trusted adult right away if someone online makes them feel uncomfortable or pressures them to break the rules.

If you or someone you know needs help regarding human trafficking or CSEC, the following resources are available:

- City of San Luis Obispo Police Department: (805) 781-7312
- Polaris U.S. Human Trafficking Hotline: (888) 373-7888
- Text “Be Free” to 233733
- Visit [polarisproject.org](https://polarisproject.org)
- 2-1-1 Hotline: Dial 211 or (800) 549-8989

To report acts of child abuse and neglect, contact the Child Welfare Hotline at (805) 781-1700. For more information and resources on cyber safety, please visit [ReadySLO.org](https://ReadySLO.org).

## Remember to Flush the Pipes

As part of its standard treatment process, the City adds a small amount of residual chlorine disinfectant to act as a quality safeguard as water travels throughout the community’s water distribution system. If a building or facility experiences extended periods of low or no water use, the residual chlorine may diminish and cause water stagnation or growth of microorganisms. To remedy this issue and restore water quality, the City is advising businesses impacted by temporary closures to thoroughly flush water lines if they have significantly or completely reduced water use. Please visit the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\), Guidance for Building Water Systems](https://www.cdc.gov/building-water-systems/) for more information.

## Additional Resources

- Please visit [www.ReadySLO.org](https://www.ReadySLO.org) for the latest public health updates and recommendations or call the Public Health information Line at (805) 788-2903 (recorded message) or the County’s Phone Assistance Center at (805) 543-2444.
- City Business and Community Shelter at Home Hotline – (805) 783-7835 to report concerns or inquire on essential business status.
- **Sign Up for E-Notifications:** The City is committed to keeping you informed. Please register here to receive periodic email updates and follow the City of San Luis Obispo on social media for the latest information.
- [City of San Luis Obispo COVID-19 Information](#)
- [San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department](#)
- [California Department of Public Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Mental Health & Emotional Support Services](#)

Have comments, suggestions or need help? We are here to support you! Please email [help@slocity.org](mailto:help@slocity.org) or call (805) 781-7100.