



News Release

DATE: March 16, 2020
RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
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CITY TAKES ACTION TO PROTECT HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING ST. PATRICK'S DAY HOLIDAY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

San Luis Obispo, CA - In order to protect the health and safety of our community, the City of San Luis Obispo is joining the County of San Luis Obispo and other cities in ordering the temporary restriction of alcohol sales at on-site alcohol-serving establishments in the City effective at 5:00 pm Monday, March 16, 2020 until 12:01pm on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. This action was taken by the City Manager acting as the City's Emergency Services Director and the proclamation is available on the City's website (www.slocity.org).

Governor Newsom's recent Executive Order declared that all non-essential, large events should be cancelled or postponed and for bars to close with restaurants limiting capacity to 50%. Now that cases have been confirmed in the County, immediate action must be taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to limit high risk activities including large gatherings.

This action is being taken in response to confirmation of three COVID-19 cases in San Luis Obispo County and is aligned with all State of California and San Luis Obispo County Public Health directives with regards to social distancing.

"The health and safety of our community is our number one priority," City Manager Derek Johnson said. "We know these restrictions will impact our business community, but we must place the wellbeing of our community first. We all must do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect our high-risk community members."

The Saint Patrick's Day holiday typically draws large crowds to numerous bars and alcohol serving establishments throughout the City which encourages gatherings of large groups of people and is counter to guidance from public health officials on actions that must be taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"We need to take immediate action to slow the spread of the virus over the St. Patrick's Day Holiday and to limit large gatherings in public serving spaces," said Wade Horton, County Administrative Officer and Emergency Services Director.



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The County Public Health Department will provide additional direction to inform local businesses of requirements for social distancing to implement the Governor's guidance upon receipt of the guidance document from the Governor's office.

Please visit [ReadySLO.org](https://www.ready slo.org) for the latest public health updates and recommendations or call the Public Health information line at (805) 788-2903.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR PROCLAMATION NO. 1 (2020 SERIES)

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR OF
THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, REGULATING
ALCOHOL SERVING BUSINESSES AND CONGREGATIONS OF
PERSONS ON THE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY HOLIDAY WITHIN THE
CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO RELATED TO THE PANDEMIC OF VIRUS
KNOWN AS COVID-19**

WHEREAS, section 2.24.060 of the San Luis Obispo Municipal Code empowers the Emergency Services Director, in the event of the proclamation of a “local emergency” as provided in this subsection, the proclamation of a “state of emergency” by the Governor or the Director of the California Emergency Management Agency, a “federal declaration of emergency” or the existence of a “state of war emergency,” to make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency; provided, however, such rules and regulations must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, section 2.24.020 of the Municipal Code includes an epidemic as one of the proper grounds for proclaiming a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a State of National Emergency; the Governor of the State of California has proclaimed a State of Emergency for the State of California and issued Executive Orders directing measures to mitigate the spread of cases of COVID-19 within the State of California; the San Luis Obispo County Emergency Services Director has proclaimed a local emergency; and the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Director has declared a public health emergency related the spread of cases of COVID-19 within the State of California; the Emergency Services Director will request that the City Council declare a local emergency at its regularly scheduled meeting of March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the City, caused by confirmed cases and the risk of spread of the pandemic of the virus known as COVID-19 and the demands on public services to mitigate and respond to those risks, as described in the President’s Declaration of a National Emergency, the Governor’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency, the County Emergency Services Director’s Proclamation of Local Emergency and the County Public Health Director’s Declaration of a Public Health Emergency, and all recitals set forth therein, which are included as though fully set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the conditions of extreme peril concerning the spread of COVID-19 warrant and necessitate measures to ensure social distancing and deter large congregations of persons that increase the risk of community spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom has directed that all jurisdictions should limit gatherings to 250 people or less, and that bars, pubs, and wineries in the state should close, and the Centers for Disease Control has advised against gatherings of more than fifty people in order to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19 for the next eight weeks; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Patrick's Day holiday typically draws large crowds to numerous bars, pubs, nightclubs, and other alcohol serving establishments throughout the City and County, encourages large concentrations and migrations of persons among alcohol serving businesses and on the streets throughout the City, and results in widespread, often heavy, alcohol consumption and associated adverse impacts on judgement and social behaviors detrimental to mitigating the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in many other locations that are currently suffering an epidemic, testing has showed that the virus has the ability to spread fast and result in serious illness or death to vulnerable populations, including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions and the City of San Luis Obispo will be required to help enforce all restrictions imposed by the State of California and by the County of San Luis Obispo acting as the health agency; and

WHEREAS, heightened levels of public health and safety planning and preparedness have been necessitated in preparation for the emergence of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and now that cases have been confirmed in the County, immediate action must be taken to prevent the spread of the virus and to limit high risk activities and gatherings in public serving spaces, requiring rapid response not lending itself to otherwise applicable notice and approval timelines to mitigate against the further spread of COVID-19 and its resulting public health and safety impacts; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of such actions, county wide health services may become overwhelmed and unable to keep up with medical demand for care and availability of hospital or care facility capacity and the health and safety of persons within the City will be endangered; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Luis Obispo Emergency Services Director has considered the risk and has ordered the prohibition of sales of alcohol and on site consumption for the entire County of San Luis Obispo for all on sale alcohol serving establishments from 17:00 hours on Monday, March 16, 2020 until 12:00 hours on Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Emergency Services Director of the City of San Luis Obispo that:

SECTION 1. Emergency measures are necessary to limit large scale social gatherings in public serving spaces in order to advance social distancing and personal hygiene protocols necessary to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health and safety of the citizens of san Luis Obispo.

SECTION 2. In order to deter and prevent large scale gatherings and alcohol consumption related to the Saint Patrick's Day holiday that will impair judgement and adherence to necessary social distancing and personal hygiene protocols, **all on site alcohol serving establishments in the City of San Luis Obispo are hereby prohibited from serving alcohol in the City from 17:00 hours (5 p.m.) on Monday March 16, 2020 until 12:00 hours (noon) on Wednesday, March 18, 2020.**

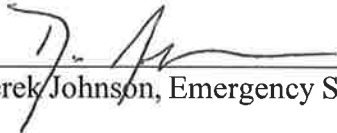
SECTION 3. Effective immediately, all food and beverage establishments within the City should implement social distancing protocols to ensure that customers of businesses open to the public should maintain a six foot distance between parties and should otherwise adhere to direction and guidelines from the County Public Health Director found at [https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Health-Agency/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).aspx](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Health-Agency/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).aspx) to assist in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in order to reduce the length and severity of public health and economic impacts.

SECTION 4. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the March 13, 2020 Proclamation by the Director of Emergency Services Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency in the County, the March 13, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) issued by the Health Director.

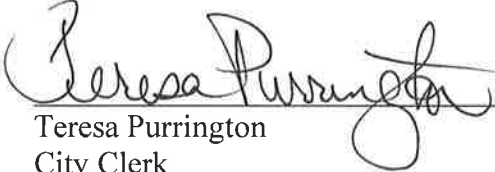
SECTION 5. This Proclamation shall be presented to the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo for confirmation at its March 17, 2020 meeting, pursuant to San Luis Obispo Municipal Code Section 2.24.060.

SECTION 6. This proclamation shall be enforceable and violations shall be subject to penalties under Municipal Code Section 2.24.100.

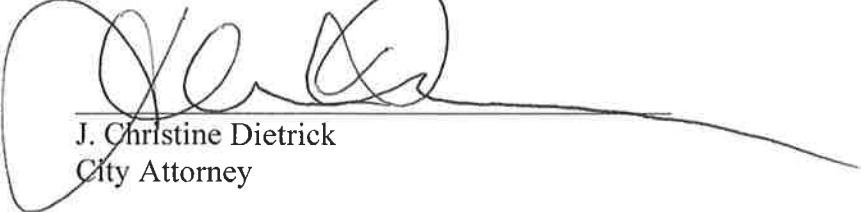
The foregoing Proclamation was approved this 16th day of March 2020.


Derek Johnson, Emergency Services Director


ATTEST:


Teresa Purrington
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


J. Christine Dietrick
City Attorney

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, this 16th day of March, 2020.


Teresa Purrington
City Clerk