



COVID-19 Community Update

A Summary of City News for the week of April 5-11, 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're all in this together and we all must do our part!*

Have Symptoms? GET TESTED

It's more important than ever for anyone showing symptoms to get tested for COVID-19. If you are sick with even mild symptoms, please get tested right away. [Click here](#) for symptom descriptions, testing information and locations.

Should I Be Covering My Face?

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health is recommending face coverings in certain situations. If people cannot maintain six feet of physical distance from others outside of the household, they recommend wearing cloth face coverings (such as bandanas or scarves, or homemade mouth and nose coverings), but only if the covering will not obstruct your ability to breathe. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Support Local Retail Businesses by Using SLO Virtual Shopping Map

The [SLO Virtual Shopping Map](#) gives you the ability to safely support local retailers during the Shelter at Home Order. Use this resource to #ShopSLO! If you are a SLO business that wants to be added to the map, [please complete this form.](#) Once you're on the map, we'll help spread the word to the community. We care about our SLO businesses and we are here to support you!

City-Wide Safety Enhancement Zone

In support of the County Shelter at Home Order and to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, the San Luis Obispo City Council adopted a [city-wide safety enhancement zone](#) to extend until the end of the Shelter at Home Order. Violations for noise, unruly gathering, open alcohol container and public urination will incur double fines. First violation fines for noise, open alcohol containers and public urination will be \$700; the first violation fine for an unruly gathering will be \$1,000.

Electricity & Gas Discounts Plus Steps to Save Energy

We know that staying at home means your electric & gas bills may go up. If you have lost your income, call your electricity & gas provider to learn about programs for a 20 to 35% discount on your bills through the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program and/or the Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA). For more information, please visit <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/lowincomerates/>. In addition, there are simple, no-cost energy-efficiency steps you can take to save energy and money right now: lower your thermostat, unplug devices/turn off power strips that you are not using, take advantage of natural lighting during the day by opening your curtains, wait to run your dishwasher until it's full, and turn down the screen brightness on your devices.

Resources and Support for Businesses

The City's Economic Development Program is working with the SLO Chamber of Commerce, Downtown SLO and other economic development organizations to provide businesses with resources and support they need right now, including new programs from the Federal CARES Act. Please visit the FAQ section of the City's COVID-19 webpage at slocity.org/covid19 for more information or for business related questions, please email us at econdev@slocity.org. We're here to help!

Likewise, the County of San Luis Obispo and REACH, formerly The Hourglass Project, are leading a [regional economic relief effort](#) in partnership with cities, chambers, and community partners. Additional resources for businesses can be found at www.RecoverCentralCoast.org.

Additional Resources

- Please visit 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](#)

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