



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**County of San Luis Obispo Releases Draft Steps to Adapt & Reopen Together**

*Public Draft Available for Input at [ReadySLO.org](https://ReadySLO.org)*

San Luis Obispo, CA – Today the County of San Luis Obispo released a public draft of its proposed approach to reopen the county. The [Steps To Adapt & Reopen Together \(START\) Guide](#) is the culmination of work by a diverse group of stakeholders facilitated by County partner, REACH, and reviewed and adopted by the project team and the County Public Health Officer, Dr. Penny Borenstein. The START Guide can be found at [ReadySLO.org](https://ReadySLO.org).

“I am confident that our community will be able to take steps to adapt and reopen together,” said Dr. Borenstein. “This dynamic draft guide provides the public with our desired approach for a phased reopening of our communities and economy.”

The START Guide incorporates a three-phased approach with clear criteria the County Health Officer can use to determine when the County can move forward from one phase to the next, or back to a prior phase depending on whether criteria is met.

SLO County is currently in “Pre-Phase 1”, which is under the County and State’s Stay-at-Home Orders. All timing of phases will be based on data, not dates, to ensure the top priority of public health and safety. The public still needs to understand that we cannot move to Phase 1 while the State Stay-at-Home Order remains in place. Residents and organizations will find the following in the START Guide:

- A matrix and description of the proposed three phases.
- The path to open systematically, with different requirements under each phase.
- A list of specific health criteria for moving forward and potentially backward as the situation evolves.
- Draft standards and guidelines.

“As we prepare to take steps to adapt and reopen together, we will work together to reduce risk. But we know risk won’t be removed entirely,” said County Administrative Officer and Emergency Services Director Wade Horton. “This draft guide will help us move forward as a community.”

To review the START Guide, provide feedback, and get other COVID-19 updates, visit [ReadySLO.org](https://ReadySLO.org), call the recorded Public Health Information Line at (805) 788-2903, or staffed phone assistance center at (805) 543-2444, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends.

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