

- Good afternoon. Today is Friday, May 1st, 2020. Thank you for watching today, San Luis Obispo County COVID-19 media briefing. My name is Michelle Shoresman. I'm the designated media contact for our county's COVID response team. This afternoon we have three speakers for you. We will begin with County Administrative Officer and Emergency Services Director Wade Horton. He will be followed by Vice President of REACH and Project Lead for the START Guide, Andrew Hackleman. That's A-N-D-R-E-W H-A-C-K-L-E-M-A-N. Finally, we will close with County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein. Speakers, please remember to repeat the questions before you answer them. And thank you once again, to our American sign language interpreter, Robin Babb. And now County Administrative Officer and Emergency Services Director Mr. Wade Horton.

- Thanks Michelle. Good afternoon. Wade Horton, County CAO and Emergency Services Director. As we prepare to take steps to adapt and reopen together or START, we'll all work as a community to minimize risk, but we will not remove risk entirely. The START Guide we've been working on is now available for public review at ReadySLO.org. The START Guide is a living document that outlines proposed steps to open our community in a phased manner. Even with minimal risks, under any circumstance, we may see increased cases, but what we need to do is take a look at their significance. The START Guide addresses what we'll do to protect public health and we'll make sure that our healthcare system is there for those in need. Not everything will reopen at the same time, and reopening date will depend on a number of factors including the governor transferring authority back to the county. But I can tell you with confidence we are prepared and ready to open SLO County safely, once the governor lifts his order. We have bent the curve, we have built capacity, we have increased the tools necessary to test and trace for the disease, and we have the personal protective equipment necessary to manage the spread. What we have is a live draft guide that shows how we, government, businesses, churches, schools, individuals and public health care leaders will reopen together. Now a quick review of what's in the START Guide and what's not in the START Guide. What's in it? You will find a matrix and description of phases. Right now we are pre-phase one, under the current shelter home order. As long as SLO County is under the governor's order, our county order will remain in place to allow some level of local control. As soon as the governor lifts his order, we will revise our order to implement the START Guide. Phase one, when we begin phasing into reopening. While SLO County is ready for this today, we have to wait until the governor lifts his order and transitions authority back to the county so we can begin phase one. Phase two is adapting and takes place a minimum of 30 days following the beginning of phase one. Depending on how we are doing in phase one, further loosening will occur in phase two. We will be adapting to real time conditions. Phase three is new normal. Again, based on observing conditions in real time and takes place a minimum of 30 days after START phase two. To move between phases, it is required that we meet and improve on epidemiological, health care, and public health criteria. You will see how we intend to open systematically with different requirements under each phase. However, they each have a few things in common. Throughout all phases, people will be required to continue to practice good personal hygiene, stay home when sick, and protect vulnerable populations. Workplaces will be required to implement appropriate policies in accordance with best practices, such as operating standards for physical distancing and sanitation and not allowing symptomatic people to return to work. You will find a list of specific health criteria for moving forward and potentially backward as the situation evolves and standards for various industries. This is what you will not find in the guide. You won't find answers to every question you may have. While this guide is fairly comprehensive, it is still a draft and there will be

unanswered questions. We are continuing to work to prepare our community for reopening to get those questions answered. You won't find dates, specifically a date when schools will reopen. We know it will be difficult for many people to return to work if they don't have childcare or their kids are not in school. We are working closely with the County Office of Education and school districts which are currently surveying parents to understand what benchmarks are needed to consider reopening of our schools. And while details about Cal Poly or our work with the tourism industry are not included in the START Guide, it is important for everyone to know that we're partnering with tourism industry to ensure that appropriate messages are being provided to potential tourists and visitors. We're working with the hotel industry to monitor occupancy. We're working with the state to keep tourists magnet destinations such as Oceano Dunes and Hearst Castle closed. And we are in close coordination with Cal Poly as university leaders work to determine the safest and most appropriate way forward for the fall 2020 quarter and beyond. We welcome your feedback for the START Guide. It's a living document and will be updated over time. If you have feedback or comments, please fill out the feedback form available on ReadySLO.org. If you have questions, please call the phone assistance center 805-543-2444 eight to 5:00 PM on weekdays and 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on weekends. Now I'd like to introduce you to Andrew Hackleman. Andrew is Vice President of REACH, and retired Lieutenant Colonel with the United States Air Force. Andrew served as a volunteer advisor to me in the Emergency Operations Center and was the project lead coordinating the efforts for the START Guide. He's going to share a little more information about our effort.

- Thank you Mr. Horton. It's a pleasure to be here today. Andrew Hackleman with REACH. And today I'm gonna talk to you a little bit about process and engagement for the START Guide, as well as some of the differences between the START Guide and the governor's framework and plan. And then round it out with some discussion on how you can provide feedback to this effort. So in terms of process and engagement, this has been a very robust effort, a great deal of research, discussion and a really, really large amount of community engagement went into the efforts that produced this draft START Guide that we have before you today on ReadySLO.org. County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein tasked an independent panel of experts to develop a framework for reopening. And the decision making is rooted in data and health indicators. The panel of experts that Dr. Borenstein selected included epidemiologist, Dr. Aydin Nazmi. And he served as the chair for this expert panel, and you met him on Monday. Also pathologist Dr. Kevin Ferguson, infectious disease specialist Dr. Trees Ritter and our county epidemiologist, Ann McDowell. And rounding out that team was employment law attorney, Kathy Eppright. As you heard at past briefings earlier this week, we also thoughtfully and systematically gathered stakeholder input from more than 250 community leaders. And the purpose of this was to create a dynamic guide that could be operationalized for our community here in San Luis Obispo County. The COVID crisis is happening to all of us and why we all need to be a part of the solution as well. This includes health professionals, private practice, education, business, community groups and all individuals and residents in the County of San Luis Obispo. The draft START Guide isn't perfect but it's significant progress for how we can reopen safely and learn to work, learn and recreate safely in our communities. Some of the differences between the START Guide and the governor's plan, there are some obvious differences between the START Guide and the governor's recently discussed pandemic roadmap. For starters, the governor's plan has four stages, whereas ours has three phases. The pandemic roadmap, the governor's plan, is a high level overview while draft START Guide is a thorough

framework with best practices and detailed guidance to more than a dozen different sectors. Both agree on the data and the science, importantly. In fact, the draft START Guide is based on the same data and same science in the governor's six point indicators, and that's included with the draft START Guide that's found on the ReadySLO.org website. The START Guide assesses our readiness to reopen based on the governor's criteria. So why do we have a START Guide and why are we not just waiting for the governor to put meat on the bones of the state's pandemic roadmap? Well, our community is focused on the health and safety of SLO County residents and we believe this START Guide and the board of supervisors have sent this START Guide to the governor for consideration because it meets the health and safety objectives for the state, in a very thoughtful way. Ultimately though, we're under the governor's order and we will work with the state to ensure that we open our communities consistent with state direction. And finally, feedback. We wanna continue to encourage community engagement. We do note that this START Guide is just that, it's a start and SLO County is prepared to safely reopen society as soon as the governor lifts his order. We want to continue encouraging community engagement and input. If you have START Guide feedback, visit ReadySLO.org and fill out the form provided. We'll be reviewing this feedback on a daily basis. And while not all ideas and comments can be incorporated into the guide, we may find creative ways to address various ideas or concerns as we move forward. And it's my pleasure now to be able to introduce Dr. Penny Borenstein, the County Health Officer.

- Thank you Andrew. So before I do talk more about the START Guide, I have some other news that I want to share and I'm going to give you the daily brief on where we are in this county with respect to our disease case count and some other findings. So we stand today at 188 cases. That is four up from yesterday and it's seven up from where we were two days ago. So we are continuing on that trend of seeing low numbers of cases. We do have five individuals in the hospital and three of them in intensive care today. Among the 188, we have 147 who have recovered, that is 78%. And for those of you who have been following the data intensively or paying attention to our recovery rates, I want to note that that is a little bit down. And part of the reason is as follows, the CDC is now moving in a direction of considering recovered to be not the seven-day time period with three days of improving symptoms and no fever, but they're moving toward a 10-day period. And so we decided as with all things in SLO County to get a jump on it and we have already begun to use 10 days of recovery as our marker. So you're gonna start to see a slower progression of some of our cases landing in that recovered category. But still, the vast majority of our cases are experiencing mild to moderate disease, doing well at home and even among our hospitalized patients. While today, we've had a small uptick, most of our individuals who are spending at least one day in the hospital are home within a week and not hitting that second wave that sometimes comes with this disease at the seven, eight, 10 day period. So we continue to do well. Notwithstanding that, we are keeping a keen eye on the circumstances at our prison, the California Men's Colony. We now stand at 11 cases. We've had a couple more overnight and we are continuing to work with the facility management and the medical team over there and doing very aggressive and comprehensive testing. So given that, as I said on Wednesday, we will see some additional numbers as we are seeing in the last couple of days. But the reason for being so comprehensive in our response is to ensure that we stay ahead of this and that we take all measure of prevention to not let it get out of control. Remember that there's staff who work in there, which numbers well above 1,500, are community members. And so what happens in our local facilities, even correctional facilities, can impact our community, and so we wanna stay very much ahead of that

situation. One of the other things that I've talked about this week is the testing enhancements that are coming. We are now able to fully announce that beginning next Monday, we are standing up with a state contract partner, OptumServe, two locations, that are gonna operate from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM weekdays, Monday to Friday. Those two locations are at the Paso Robles Veterans Hall in Paso Robles and the Ramona Gardens Community Center in Grover Beach. Registration for those sites, and it is only by appointment, is available online starting tomorrow and it will be available at ReadySLO.org to sign up online for an appointment. Appointments are given on a five-minute basis and there will be staff available to have up to 132 individuals at each of those locations be tested. For those who can't or don't have access to online registration, they can call the following number 888-634-1123. I'll say it again, 888-634-1123, is a phone bank that is available for people who cannot register for a testing appointment online. We do very much encourage people to use the online mechanism to get an appointment. It will be quicker and easier, but for those who cannot, we have the phone service available. So let's talk about the START Guide. As you heard, it provides a dynamic and responsive approach to our reopening safely. The guide is now posted at ReadySLO.org, but it is still a draft. And the reason we have put draft on it is we continue to want to hear from members of the community, in addition to the 600 comments we got from the various stakeholders who participated in the groups. There are things that we may have missed and other ideas that may come forward that will allow us to continuously edit and modify this document as we go forward. What's in it is guidelines and standards, but not rules and protocols. So it provides best practice for each industry that we plan on moving forward when we get to phase one. But I know that we will have lots and lots of questions about whether it should be a shall, or a must, or a may, or a should. So what you will see in this document at this time is best practice guidelines, which means it gives our industries, our organizations, the opportunity to jumpstart or to think deeply about how they are going to comply with those best practices. Now I'm gonna tell you a little bit about what is in the guide. You heard some of it from Mr. Horton and you heard the process explained from Mr. Hackleman, but let's go a little deeper into it. So on Wednesday I explained that there are three different components that will guide our decision making as to timing on moving from one phase to the next. So those three components are epidemiologic, healthcare, and public health. And I'm giving today just a couple of the examples. Within each of these we have four to six different components that will be looked at in the aggregate to make decisions as to when we're ready to move forward. But to just give you a flavor of it, so in the epidemiologic category, what we wanna see is no significant increase in cases for 14 days. And I can hear people are already calling our phone lines, what's meant by significant increase? It is not an absolute numeric, though we do have some numerics built in. Like we don't wanna see more than a 10% increase over a five-day period. That is one metric along with a series of other metrics. In the health care arena, I think there are six different areas. One of them, to give you a taste of it is that resources are available to sustain a 30% increase in ICU patients. In the public health sector, we again have a number of criteria that we are gonna be looking at. One of them is our ability to connect with our cases and we have thus far been able to do that in 100% of our positive individuals. We've set as a metric to be able to, in our connecting with the case, illicit contact information from at least 90% of cases. We are already exceeding that. But should our numbers go up and the demands on our contact tracing system make it more difficult, we may see some slippage, but we wanna stay at that very high level of contact tracing. So that just gives you some of the examples of the process by which we will need to see our metrics giving us a level of comfort and stability before we can move forward to the next phase. We also similarly have a list of criteria for moving backward. So for example, the opposite of what I've just said. So if we see a doubling of cases in less than five days, that would be an epidemiologic

marker that would give us pause. In the healthcare arena, if we see our inability to keep up with the surge of patients in the hospital beds or an ICU that exceeds a 30% increase, that's one of the metrics. In public health, the inability to contact trace more than 20% of our cases. So that just gives you a flavor of the kinds of things. All of this is laid out in the report with, I think it's 17 different metrics across those three categories. Let's talk about the types of businesses that are listed in the different phases. So we have tried to move as aggressively forward as we can. We know, believe me, we know and understand the pain that many people, many families, many businesses, many organizations are feeling with respect to the situation that we've been in now for over six weeks. So with that, but with those public health metrics in mind, we have laid out the circumstances for which most businesses can move forward in the second phase. I'll give you some examples however. So for example, in phase one, general businesses, retail stores, manufacturers can reopen by implementing strict physical distancing and limits on the number of customers allowed at one time. Similarly, movie theaters, museums, places of worship, food facilities, restaurants are in our phase one. And with social distancing, with allowing only limited numbers of patrons with appointments for certain types of businesses, these are the types of things that are laid out in the more specific guidance that's also included. Face coverings, I'm gonna talk about that more at the end, but that is one of the strategies that in some situations will be important to moving forward in a safe manner. In phase two, that's when we're looking to schools and summer camps, should the timing be right, to move forward in those situations. That causes a lot of concern for us and many, many people in the community. But again, with proper guidance and proper conditions and proper behavior, as long as we continue to see very good results in our statistics we are hoping that we can move that forward in phase two, which comes at a minimum, and I wanna stress minimum, of 30 days after we enter phase one. Also in phase two, not in phase one, we have things that have much more direct body contact, so massage and spa facilities are in phase two. Gatherings of people, in phase one we say 10 people, in phase two, we go up to 50 people. Now, let me be clear on that, no one's gonna come to someone's house and arrest you if you have 11 people on the day that phase one goes into place. What we are asking of our community through this entire process is that they continue to work with us so that we can continue our metrics being as good as they have been. So while we have numbers on every one of these situations, we also very much are asking for common sense from our community. In every phase of this guide, there are recommended standard actions related to physical distancing, sanitation, non-essential travel, and those gatherings that I spoke of for all manner of people, individuals, employers and specific businesses. So I'm gonna review again how the governor's plan might affect our START Guide. So from the outset of this pandemic, we didn't wait for the state to act and as we're moving forward in this, we have continued to try to be one step ahead. We acknowledge that there are differences between our START Guide and the governor's guide. We have always said, however, we're preparing to lift our order and we'll reopen as soon as we can. We've been dialoguing as you heard from Mr. Horton with folks at the state to try to make our case, if you will, that we feel that we are ready. And one component of the guide that you will see is basically a checklist of the six indicators laid out by the state to modify the stay at home order at the state level, and we feel that we have met every one of those metrics. I do wanna go over a few more notes on some areas. I said I would come back to the issue of masks. This is probably the most common question that I am getting these days. Dr. Borenstein, why do you not follow what many other counties have done and issue a mandate or an order for all people in all public situations to wear face coverings? So let me try to address it. It will be an ongoing dialogue between myself, between cities, community groups, businesses and the people who are on the front lines. I know that this is an area of passion, it is for me as well. So let me see if I can

address where I'm coming from on this. There is no good information on whether or not masks help in this disease, in this situation. And I'm gonna use the terms mask and face covering interchangeably. Many people say, well, but there is some information that it probably does help. So why not the better part of valor just say, well if it doesn't hurt, why not? Well, there is some counter information that it could be harmful. It could be harmful to some people who can't wear a mask. It could be harmful 'cause some of the materials that are used some of the textiles are made with formaldehyde. It could be harmful from the perspective of false sense of security. There are a number of things on the pro side and there are a number of reasons on the con side to be looking at this issue very carefully. There are actual research articles, very few, but there are on both sides, some saying yes it may be protective, some saying it could actually cause more harm than good. So some of the other considerations is I go out and about the community and I would say probably 50-50 are wearing medical grade masks. We've asked continuously, please do not purchase medical grade masks. Those are either face masks, surgical masks or the N95 masks. People can purchase them, they can get them at the open hardware stores and they are purchasing them in large numbers. At the same time, we continue to have a bit of a strain on those supplies and I continue to ask people who are using them for the purposes of protecting people in an environment where they may need to wear it because social distancing or physical distancing is not possible to please refrain from using those. Secondly as I said, the fabric masks are your only alternative if I'm telling you not to wear medical grade masks. And there again, they have to be with the right material and made properly and the right elastic and used properly and cleaned properly. And so with all of those things and having a wide variety of people who are coming at this dialogue from different perspectives, we have made it, and I will continue to make it a recommendation rather than a universal order or mandate at this time. And I continue to say that if our situation gets to a much worse place than where we are now, whereby without the use of universal masking, we have continuously from the beginning of this epidemic not seen a spike in disease. It may be because of our stay at home orders. But remember, people all through this have gone to grocery stores, have gone to pharmacies, have gone to farmer's markets, have gone to hardware stores and auto mechanics and all the essential businesses and we have not seen a spike with the absence of requirement of masks. So while it may be additionally protective and we retain that as another tool in the toolbox, should the situation warrant us taking that additional dramatic step, I will do so. But at this time for reasons of fear, for reasons of concern, without good data and understanding whether it could possibly be harmful as much as it is helpful, I continue to make it a recommendation to do all the other things first, hand-washing, stay home when you're sick, cough into your sleeve, keep as much distance as you can, put up plexiglass, do other things and reserve the mask as yet one more thing when that physical distancing and these other measures are not enough. So that's where I'm gonna leave it today on the issue of masks. With respect to moving through our START phases, some people are gonna look through it and feel somewhat disappointed that their industry or their group or their social club is not contained in phase one. And I apologize for that. We have taken a very hard look at how to move slowly through the phases. What we don't want to happen is suddenly overnight that we ease restrictions and everything goes back to normal and we don't wanna have wasted all of the hard work that our community has done over this period of weeks. So the reason to move slowly is to lift the veil, to allow businesses to come back. That is critically important for as many people as possible to restore their incomes, to get back to work, to get out of the house, to avoid all the negative impacts we're seeing from a shelter in place, from a physical and mental health perspective, but to do so in a step-wise fashion. So I think of this as sort of a building tide. So we'll release some and kind of see how it goes, and release a little more and we'll see how it goes. And then

ultimately, if we're still in a safe and good place, we will get back to this new normal. And what I mean by new normal, and this is a good thing that now everyone has learned about all the ways that you can prevent infection. So I'm hoping that next flu season we see a lot less flu because now everybody's washing their hands more and staying away from people. And please, how many times do we have to say stay home when you're sick? Our largest outbreak in healthcare setting in this county was because a nurse went to work sick because she didn't wanna let down her fellow employees. There is no situation in this pandemic where anyone should feel that they are that essential that they need to be at work. So we are going to move forward in a slow and stepwise fashion and then sit back and wait a while. And so that means that some of the ways in which we can ask people to wait, and I know this is really hard, I have a colleague who's checking in with me on a regular basis, "Is my wedding gonna come off in September?" And all I keep saying is, "I'm really sorry, I don't know." But for those kinds of larger private events and believe me, I'm aware that there's a whole wedding industry that isn't gonna be in phase one, for example, but we are asking people to abide with us as we move through these steps in a cautious manner and move some of those industries forward a little bit later. So if you can have your wedding with 10 people, you're good to go. Phase two will be 50, and after that, you can have your 300 person wedding if you can afford it. So that's just one of the examples. Social clubs, country clubs, chambers, a host of other groups, we're also asking them, though we have gotten away from the idea of essential versus unessential for some of these areas of human gathering we have looked at it in terms of what can wait. What is not gonna cause economic distress and complete destruction of our economy. And so for some of those things we're asking folks to wait a little bit longer as we move through these phases. We also believe that even in the industries that we say are in phase one and they can reopen that there is understandably a lot of concern. People have seen other jurisdictions have a much harder time and we don't wanna be that jurisdiction. And quite frankly, many of our residents are gonna say, you know what, I'll wait until phase three. I don't need to go out. And especially I want you to do that, and the plan says to do that if you are an elderly person, if you have medically compromised. So to some extent, I think our plan is gonna be self-enforcing. I think that we will see businesses come back slowly. I know businesses are anxious to get their customers back. We want that to happen too. But I think that by virtue of the range of considerations that individuals need to take as they begin to come back into the lives that they knew before this, they themselves will move at different rates. And so I think our businesses will continue to experience that. Lastly, I wanna revisit this item that I talked about should versus may versus shall. As we get into phase one, there will be a modified order from our county council, from myself, from Mr. Horton, that will have some shoulds in it. But there will also continue to be best practices. So some areas will say these are the best ways that you can design your business plan or that you can bring about social distancing. Those are in those standards and guidelines that are in the plan. Some of those may well as we move forward in this process in the days and hopefully days, but maybe days and weeks to come, that some of them will turn into thou shalt. We look to businesses to do all the best practices but we envision that we will continue our environmental health checks, our planning and building checks, our compliance checks from law enforcement as needed. And so some things will be musts and something will be recommendations. So part of that will be emerging in the coming days. And I address that now because I know that people will read this plan and say, "What the heck am I supposed to do with this "if you don't give me a recipe?" So I wanna address it head on to say that you will not find absolutes in this plan. But again, it is designed to give our business partners, our organizations, our places of worship, the best ideas about how they can begin planning in the days and weeks to come. So with that, I just want to again, really sincerely thank our community for the hard

work they've done. I don't want this to sound like today is the start of our START plan because it's not, if we haven't said it enough, we still are under the state order. But I do especially wanna thank the people who have continued to be at work and on the front lines through this entire episode. Many of us have not missed a day of work and working seven days a week. I know that's true of many of our healthcare providers. I know that people in industries like the grocery industry, pharmacies, auto industry, a number of places that have had to pick up some extra shifts perhaps because some of their peers are medically vulnerable and needed to stay home. I know that there's all manner of people that have been really putting themselves on the front lines. So I wanna thank them. I want to remind you, as you heard, the phone assistance center is available for questions and we want your feedback. We want your feedback to this guide. It's on ReadySLO.org, so please go there. With that, I'm going to stop and turn it over for questions.

- [Woman] So just to make sure I understand the situation. So we're under the stay at home order. Am I correct in hearing, I think at the beginning of the press conference someone said that once that order is lifted we'll be ready to enter phase one, is that right?

- The question was, as I understand it, we are still under the state stay at home order, but when that is lifted, are we ready to enter phase one? And the answer is yes.

- [Woman] So one of the criteria is capacity of hospitals. We've been contacted by people who work in dentist's office around the county saying they don't have enough PPE. Is PPE a part of the criteria that you are ensuring that there is enough PPE and is the county keeping track of the... We're investigating instances where people are saying they don't have PPE.

- I wish you could be up at the microphone. I'll try to repeat as much of that question as I can. So the question was, we've been hearing from a number of healthcare providers, particularly dentists who say, yes, I understand that we're ready to open, but we may or may not have enough PPE and is there a requirement for us to open to have adequate amounts of PPE, and if we don't, how do we assure that we can get that supply? So yes to all of that. I know we're monitoring it. So you will see healthcare is in phase one. It's actually quite frankly, I have stood at this microphone previously and said that healthcare can resume normal activities effective last week. I happen to know that at least some of our hospitals are planning to go back to non-urgent surgeries as early as next week. Many of providers' offices I've been hearing from have resumed their normal patient appointments. Dentistry has definitely been one of the harder ones. I think because they have not had as much of a typical contractual arrangement with PPE supply companies and they are now scrambling a bit. We at the county are working with them to try to help them find their way to the same supply chains that we have. We have also fulfilled quite a few PPE requests for those providers to give them the opportunity to bridge until they can get their own supplies. So I think you heard supervisor Peschong sometime within this week, I think, talk about we hit a milestone of fulfilling over 500 PPE requests for our healthcare providers. We are continuing to do that. We are very much however trying to move our providers back to their own resources for getting

supplies. But if they are coming up empty we will work with them to try to help them get there. Any other?

- [Man] I have a question. So in phase three, everything is going to plan once we get to that point, like you mentioned, that's gonna be the new normal there's nothing after phase three, just gonna continue until maybe there's a vaccine or something like that?

- So the question was, phase three appears to be what we're calling the new normal, but is it really just normal? Everything is back open and everything is as it was before, if I can paraphrase your question. And so there is even built into phase three, still some elements that are, you'll see actual TBD, to be determined. So Cal Poly, as you heard Mr. Horton talk about 22,000 people on campus, that's a very large gathering and we're not sure that if everything still looks good after 14 days, after 30 days, after another 30 days that we're gonna feel that the metrics of this disease warrant going back to business as usual. So that's gonna be an inner dialogue with Cal Poly leadership. We also in that phase three talk about large gatherings and entertainment venues as being TBD. Again, depending on what the situation looks like in our county, whether treatment has become online such that people are not worried about dying from this disease. I don't think we'll have vaccine in that timeframe, but maybe we do have some measure of enhanced treatment. Maybe we get closer to herd immunity, although as you've heard me say, I think that's still a long way off. But all of these things and especially in our later phases, we're going to be reactive to, based on the metrics we see. But it may be that in 60 or 90 days that we are still not ready to have our wonderful performance arts center filled with, I don't know what their capacity is, but I'm guessing it's in the thousands. So things of that sort. The Mid-State Fair, I've talked about here before there may need to be some adjustments in terms of concerts, even if we otherwise meet the metrics, phase three is gonna have some ongoing considerations based on the nature of the events.

- [Woman] Are you able to be more specific in the breakdown of who continues to contract the virus here in the county? Are we talking about mostly healthcare workers or are people getting it at the grocery store? Are you able to specify that?

- So the question was, can you give us more specificity around who the new cases are, how they're getting it? So I don't think I brought it with me, but I usually I look every single day at all of our metrics and it includes age, it includes geographic location of the case, it includes whether it's in a facility like a CMC, it includes the nature of transmission. So whether it's a new source, whether they had travel experience, someone who was out of county for the last week or two and that's where we believe they got it from not locally. And most commonly amongst our recent cases, it's person-to-person transmission. And that for the most part means household contact. Sometimes it's a work contact. But we believe we know where they got their case from as opposed to it just sort of popped up out of nowhere, which is our category called community transmission. So for the most part, our cases in recent weeks have been in that person-to-person transmission category. So that again is reassuring to us. It's

one of the metrics you'll see under the epidemiology category is three or more new chains of transmission, meaning not linked to an already recognized source.

- [Woman] Dr. Borenstein, I'm seeing here in phase one it says there'll be able to be gatherings of no more than 10 people, but then physical distancing is still supposed to continue. Can you explain how that's gonna work? For instance, if restaurants re-open, will people be able to go out to dinner with people not in their household? How's that gonna work?

- So the question was how's it gonna work if you've got these sort of two competing criteria, gatherings of up to 10 people but still asking for physical distancing in businesses like restaurants? So I would imagine that, so family units, household members throughout this we have said you have more possibility of transmission within your home than in any outside of the home area. So if you're a family of five and you go out to dinner together, you don't need to be six feet apart from them because you're not under normal circumstances. If you're a group of friends of five you can go out together under this scenario and sit at a table together and not necessarily have that six foot distance. You do need to have that six foot distance from the next party of five. That's what we're asking.

- [Woman] We'll take one more question.

- Thank you

- [Woman] One more question. So this also mentions modified things for K through 12 schools and I know districts throughout SLO County are handling this situation differently. Some have said they're closing in person classes for the year, some are kind of waiting to see what happens. But pretty much everyone's expressed a real concern about reopening, using techniques like staggering class times and stuff because they don't have enough staff for that. Can you explain how that's gonna work?

- So the question was around what are schools gonna look like? Are they gonna open soon and how are they gonna abide by the spirit and rule of these guidelines? There's no school district that's gonna open this school year. We may just bear... No, we don't even have 30 days. Maybe barely for some of the school district, it's just not gonna happen. Even if the governor let us off tomorrow and we got to phase two where it says modified opening, I can guarantee you that no school district is opening this year. What we have put into the plan for a partial reopening for summer is those sectors of school operations like a summer school class or special education extended school year, that if they can do that with the physical distancing that they can do so. So we're really talking about what is school gonna look like when it reopens in August or September. And that is why as you heard Mr. Horton say there is not a detailed guideline for schools because that is gonna be an ongoing conversation over the weeks to come about

how the schools may be able to manage a safer environment given their limitations of space and staff and money. So that's a work in progress. Thank you.

- I do have a few reminders today mostly related to the ReadySLO.org website and some new information that you can find there, that was mentioned by the speakers here today. For instance, starting tomorrow, Saturday, May 2nd, you'll be able to find the information that Dr. Borenstein shared about the new testing sites in Grover Beach and Paso Robles that will open next week. There you will find the testing criteria for those sites as well as the link to schedule appointments, again, starting tomorrow. If you do not have access to the internet, you can also call the phone bank and I'll repeat that number that Dr. Borenstein gave one more time to make an appointment for those clinics, it is 888-634-1123. Also the complete START Guide is available on ReadySLO.org. There along with the START Guide, you can find a comment form that will allow you to share your feedback on the document. Please use that comment form to share your feedback rather than providing oral feedback to the phone assistance center. That internet based form will go straight to the people who need to see it the most. That said, the phone assistance center remains open this weekend from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. It's a good place to ask any of your other questions about COVID-19. And you can also continue to listen to our public health information line. Finally, the usual reminders about where you can see these briefings, they've been live streamed on Facebook and on our county's webpage, as well as KCOY and KSBY. And then after today's briefing, you can still see it on public access, channel 21. It will air at midnight, 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM until our next briefing occurs on Monday. Thank you again, for tuning in today and staying engaged. Be well and we'll see you next week.