A snapshot of the regional impact of COVID

More than 900 businesses between Solvang and San Miguel responded to the Central Coast Coalition of Chambers COVID-19 impact survey, providing data to back up what Chambers throughout the region are hearing from their members. The survey ran from May 11-17, 2020 and covered topics including general sentiment, financial impacts, general challenges, and reopening status of businesses.

An overwhelming majority of respondents were feeling unsure and believe that the economy will be impacted for 6-12 months or longer and will stagnate or show slow growth thereafter. Respondents’ top three concerns as it relates to the crisis are the negative impact on their job/income/business, the US economy, and not knowing how long the situation will last. The economic impact of the crisis cannot be understated, with nearly 40% of businesses reporting decreases in revenue of more than 75% since the Shelter-in-Place order was issued mid-March.

Unsurprisingly, revenue/cash flow remains the number one challenge (43%) by a large margin but nearly 15% are appropriately concerned on protecting their employees and customers from COVID-19 and are in search of information to help them do so. When asked about being able to pay their rent/mortgage in full, 23% reported inability to make those payments in full.

As the State moves into the first part of ‘Stage 2’, 68.3% of businesses report being able to open in some fashion and 23% were able to open completely because of the change in the State’s order. 31.7% are still unable to open at all. While more than 35% of respondents would describe current conditions for their business as fair, 46% described conditions as poor or catastrophic, more than twice the number that described conditions as good or excellent.

Where possible, many businesses have adapted operations to fit circumstances. Nearly 37% report establishing alternative ways to sell and deliver products and 23% have changed the products/services they offer. But COVID-19 has caused many area businesses to close their doors or lay off workers. More than 34% of respondents have closed temporarily and 37% said at least one employee has been furloughed or laid off.

The Coalition of Central Coast Chambers are Chambers in both San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara County: Atascadero Chamber, Buellton Chamber, Cambria Chamber, Lompoc Chamber, Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber, Morro Bay Chamber, Paso Robles Chamber, San Luis Obispo Chamber, Santa Maria Chamber, Solvang Chamber, South County Chambers, and Templeton Chamber. We are proud to be a part of the Coalition of Central Coast Chambers.

June SCCC Business of the Month: Nan’s Pre-Owned Books in Grover Beach

Nan’s Pre-Owned Books have officially opened their doors! Please wear a face mask when you come in. Nan and Kassi will be there to assist you in any way they can. Indulge yourself in a world of knowledge and entertainment. When you browse Nan’s Pre-Owned Bookstore you’ll find never-ending covers of great stories; from biographies to science fiction, to arts and romance.

Nan’s provides their customers with excellent service including special orders on new books. Here, you’ll find a large selection of children’s books, books on CD, and an open atmosphere that makes your book searching experience wonderful.

Be sure and look for Kallie. She’s the store cat at Nan’s Pre-Owned books. Kallie loves to lay around and wait for people to come up and pet her. Her favorite thing to do is follow the customers around until she catches their attention.

Ways to contact them: Call (805) 489-7510; email nanbooks@aol.com; Message them via Facebook; DM them via Instagram; or visit nanspreownedbooks.com.
Update from Supervisor Lynn Compton, District 4:
Oceano, Nipomo, and Arroyo Grande

Update from Supervisor Compton on COVID-19 (as of June 1, 2020):

1. Cases:
   SLO Co. - 269 (up 1 from yesterday), 91% recovered, 4 cases in hospital, all in ICU. One death several months ago.
   SB Co. - 1636 positives, 1481 recovered, 12 deaths.
   Monterey Co - 469 positives (up 18), 298 recovered, 5 deaths.
   Kern Co. - 2076 positives (up 69) 1395 recovered, 37 deaths.
   Kings Co. - 714 positives, 273 recovered, 3 deaths.
   Fresno Co. - 1658 positives, 536 recovered, 32 deaths, 198 hospitalized.
   Tulare Co. - 1844 positives, 912 recovered, 84 deaths.
   Ventura Co. - 1062 positives, 796 recovered, 32 deaths.

2. Massage therapy businesses are not in this current phase (Phase 2) and still not allowed by Governor’s Order to open. Under the State’s Plan, these may reopen under Stage 3, and we do not yet know how to move to Stage 3. We are waiting on direction from the Governor’s Office.

3. Three regional libraries - San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, and Arroyo Grande are reopening for pick-up curbside services only, starting June 2nd. Each library cardholder can borrow up to 10 items at one time, with a 3-week limit on keeping print items and 1 week on other media. Instructions at each regional library will be posted for patrons who arrive to pick up their ordered materials. You can sign up to receive text, email, and phone notifications when your items are ready at your desired branch for pick up.

4. Testing:
   At this time, we are still testing for positive cases at the Paso Robles Vet’s Hall and in Grover Beach at the Ramona Gardens Community Center.

Beginning on June 8th, we will move the testing site from the Paso Robles Vets hall to the city of San Luis Obispo at the SLO Veterans Hall. At that time, the Grover Beach testing site will continue to operate there.

As previously mentioned, we have contracted with a “pop up” testing facility, US Health Fairs, and they will be offering two testing clinics in the county. The first will be from June 1-2 in Cambria at the Vet’s Memorial and June 2-3 in Los Osos at the Red Barn.

Register for all of the above testing facilities at readyslo.org, or there is a phone option if you cannot register online. That number is 888-634-1123.

5. Dr. Borenstein continued the Short-Term Lodging Order for another week (it was to expire May 31st). She and Wade Horton will review it next Friday to determine if it will again continue or be modified. We have seen no uptick in cases from our hotel industry.

Respectfully,
Lynn Compton
San Luis Obispo County Supervisor
District 4

CALL IT IN – OR DINE IN
JOIN US FOR TAKEOUT TUESDAY
#love4local❤️

Show your love and support for our local restaurants.
Arroyo Grande News

I am so happy that we have begun to move further into Phase 2 of the State’s plan. The city of Arroyo Grande is committed to helping our business community get up and running as fast as possible. We are working with individual businesses, and proactively looking at common outdoor seating areas as we speak to help with the challenges of required modifications. If you have a challenge in getting back up and running, please don’t hesitate to reach out. We are here to help. If you have any hiccups with the city, please call me ASAP at 805-234-1270.

The Banner Project in the Village, for the Class of 2020, has been the highlight of my public service to pull off that surprise for the community. As an AGHS alum, seeing the village decked out in blue and gold for the first time has been great, and the community response has been incredible. People really needed something so positive and connective. I put together a fantastic team of people who made my vision come to life. Please thank Ray Ambler/RAPHOTOS, Spike Theismeyer/Photos By Spike, Brand Creative West (local AG printer!), Shannon Hurtado, Supervisor Lynn Compton, Pat Cusack/Honda of SM/SLO, Stacey Bromley, Jeff Zambo, and Acting City Manager Bill Robeson. It’s one thing to dream up something big. It’s quite another to have people buy in and get ‘er done. They are all amazing and it could not have been done without any one of them.

I have seen families and friends walking the entire village to see the banners. It was our goal to time getting them up with the re-opening of our businesses to help drive some foot traffic. Having dinner out was a dose of “normal” that was desperately needed for many including yours truly, and it was so wonderful to see students in their caps and gowns taking selfies and patronizing businesses while they were out celebrating.

Let’s hope our numbers stay low, and we charge forward to get Arroyo Grande back on its economic feet quickly. Stay safe, be well, wear your mask, and love your neighbor. As I always say, "together we are extraordinary."

Caren Ray Russom
Mayor, City of Arroyo Grande

Grover Beach News

And another month has past...so much time, so many changes. Businesses are starting to open in stages or phases or whatever name the re-opening is being called. All I know is that last week my wife and I had a sit down meal at The Spoon Trade and I actually got my hair cut! Each business had new protocols in place and the new normal has started or perhaps continues in a different direction.

Throughout this new normal and beyond, the City of Grover Beach will provide services to our residences, businesses and visitors. Safe drinking water is being delivered, emergency services are available, wastewater is being treated, trash is being picked up, roads & sidewalks are being planned and built, parks are open. In other words, your City is still here for you and we are open, albeit perhaps in different and unusual ways. And we will continue to serve you...next week, next month, next year. We want to work with you to get your businesses open...safely.

Jeff Lee
Mayor, City of Grover Beach

Pismo Beach News

The Memorial Day Weekend was very busy in Pismo Beach, but we had extra staffing downtown to better manage the crowds. The opening of retail and restaurants with restrictions is welcome since our local businesses have been hard hit.

Our face covering ordinance for businesses is now in effect which requires face coverings by employees (unless exempted by a physician) and the posting of a sign at the entrance. The sign has guidance from the Centers for Disease Control which recommends the wearing of face coverings if social distance cannot be maintained. The opening of barber shops and hair salons is especially welcome so I can get my long hair cut finally!

We have discouraged travel to Pismo Beach from outside the area, but it is clear that people will come here anyway. Our hotels are restricted to 50% occupancy by the County but the effect will likely drive up room rates.

The pier plaza is a bit behind schedule due to several construction issues, but it will be spectacular when finished.

Ed Waage
Mayor, City of Pismo Beach

Welcome New Members:

Central Coast Cannabis Council
Calwise Spirits Co.
Inspirations Floral & Event Design
Tracy Chitwood, Mobile Notary

Thank You Renewing Members!

Farmers Insurance — Stacy Korsgaden
Diamond Level Chairman’s Circle
Central Coast Masonic Lodge 237
John E Hutton DDS MS MPH
Steven Singer Esq
Rutiz Family Farms
Dogtastic Training
Avila Beach Community Center
Carols Specialties & Gifts
Dana Adobe Cultural Center
Rotary Club Grover Beach-Five Cities
The Oaks at Nipomo
EMPATH
Brisco’s Village Gift Shop
FOODJETS SLO County
Five Cities Meals on Wheels Inc
Sidewalk Café
Clark Center for the Performing Arts
The Casitas of Arroyo Grande
Digital West
JJ's Market on the Mesa
Mail Plus
Westvyne, LLC
Mary Kay Cosmetics- Kimberly Victor
Velocity Tint
Addison Landscape & Maintenance Inc
Lopez Lake Marina
Fin’s Seafood Restaurant
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You know your needs better than we do, so you can decide how and when to use that check to make sure you’re taken care of in an uncertain time.

Feel free to contact me directly with any questions.
The focus for the May 1 day session for Leadership South County was art and education. Photographer Richard Fusillo provided a local artist insight and Laurie Hamblin, an educator and artist, led an art activity and instruction time. Dr. Jill Stearns, President of Cuesta College, spoke about the future of education.

Leadership South County Class Two started an initiative to recognize grocery workers in South County. One of these winners was Kristy at Grocery Outlet in Arroyo Grande. She received this gift basket.

If you have any questions about the Chamber’s Leadership South County program, contact Marty Imes, Leadership South County Executive Director, at marty@southcountychambers.com.

Gift basket winner: Kristy at Grocery Outlet in Arroyo Grande

May 1 art and education session via Zoom
Recap of Meeting on May 29:

With businesses re-opening in the county, the Chamber’s Governmental Affairs Committee heard from County Supervisor Compton on those dynamics and a focus on major impacts on the hotel industry.

We heard from the League of California Cities’ David Mullinax on their Support Local Recovery Coalition that seeks to secure federal funding for local cities whom have been hit by the economy too and asked local businesses to sign onto support.

The committee listened to San Luis Obispo Farm Bureau’s Brent Burchett on the current state of agriculture. Lastly, Tenet Health Central Coast’s Mark Lisa spoke on CA Senate Bill (SB) 977’s potential impacts on local hospitals.

— Clint Weirick, Co-Chair
Governmental Affairs Committee
Formerly *Tidy Liv'n by Claryce*

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- Home for Sale Preparation

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www.centralcoasttransitions.com

NEW NAME  
ENHANCED SERVICES
Welcome to the Chamber, Calwise Spirits Co.! Their local distillery is currently producing large volumes of hand sanitizer in accordance with FDA requirements to provide businesses with hand sanitizer to help them prepare for reopening. Bulk order discounts may apply. Ask about their $49 reopen special. For details, visit their website at calwisespirits.com/sanitizer.

Welcome to the Chamber, Tracy Chitwood! Tracy is a mobile notary and loan-signing agent who serves three counties: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Kern. She is a licensed Realtor and offers live scan finger-printing. She understands the importance of great customer service. Tracy provides professional, efficient, and timely business services to meet your needs. Call or text her at 805-709-7447, or email her at tracy@phoenixresinc.us. Visit her online at tracychitwood.com.

Welcome to the Chamber, Inspirations Floral & Event Design! They are excited to announce that they are back! They provide personalized design & décor, making any special event a celebration that is unique and memorable by all accounts. Visit their showroom/floral studio at 404 E. Branch St. in the Village of Arroyo Grande. They are now offering in-person consultations taking all precautions necessary. Schedule your free consultation today by calling (805) 270-4373. Thank you to Anita Shower, Miss Etiquette, for sponsoring this new Chamber membership.
New Chamber Member Highlights

Welcome to the Chamber, Ayer Tax and Accounting! Katy Ayer handles tax planning and tax returns for small businesses, individuals, estates, and trusts. She offers QuickBooks support including setup and troubleshooting. Katy can also provide remote Controller services. For more information, please call (805) 817-1762, or e-mail ayertax805@gmail.com. Visit her online at ayertax.com.

Welcome to the Chamber, Central Coast Cannabis Council! They are a local non-profit trade group for the legal cannabis industry. Follow them on Instagram at instagram.com/centralcoastcannabiscouncil.
Arroyo Grande Library Reopening this Month

Starting Tuesday, June 2, three County of San Luis Obispo library branches will begin offering curbside pickup services.

The San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, and Arroyo Grande branches of the County libraries will offer curbside pickup Tuesday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“Some of our online services continue as always including e-books, audiobooks, movies, zip-books, and our online summer reading program,” said County Libraries Director Christopher Barnickel. “Library cardholders can begin placing holds on items in the www.slolibrary.org catalog on Monday, June 1 for pickups starting on Tuesday, June 2. You can get text, email and phone notifications when your items are ready at your desired branch for pick up.”

Cardholders may check out up to 10 items at a time, with a three-week limit on keeping print items and one week for other media. Instructions will be posted for patrons who arrive to pick up their ordered materials. Patrons may pick up materials from any one of the three regional library branches.

Materials can be returned at any of the County’s 14 branch locations, in the book drop boxes, or simply handed to staff during the curbside service.

For updates on COVID-19 in SLO County, visit ReadySLO.org or call the recorded Public Health Information Line at (805) 788-2903. A staffed phone assistance center at (805) 543-2444 is available Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist with questions related to COVID-19.

— County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department at readyslo.org

Additional SLO County Measures to Protect Public Health

INTERIM SOCIAL/PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND SANITATION GUIDELINES ALL INDUSTRIES/SECTORS:

The following are interim guidelines that all employers should consider when readying their businesses for reopening. The best practices are written to describe the current understanding of actions that can be taken to limit or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. It is recognized that not all the best practices can be implemented in all workplaces. These additional best practices and guidelines have been identified in addition to those published by the State guidelines for specific industry sectors and specific business types, as a part of the State’s Resilience Roadmap.

Employers should reference both the State’s guidance and the following best practices. Additional Measures to Protect Health:

i. Employers are encouraged to display signage at each entrance of the facility to inform employees and customers:

1. of common COVID-19 symptoms and that they must not enter the facility if they are sick with or suspect they may be experiencing COVID 19 symptoms

2. of social / physical distancing protocol at the facility; persons to maintain a minimum six-foot distance from non-household members as much as practicable and not engage in any unnecessary physical contact

3. of proper hand washing techniques and encouraging regular hand washing in breakrooms and other locations where employee information is provided

ii. In addition to the State’s guidelines by sector regarding adjustment of maximum occupancy, employers are encouraged to limit the number of customers in the facility based on a number that allows for six feet of distance for customers and employers to the extent feasible.

iii. Consider designating a foot traffic control monitor to ensure social distancing requirements are maintained.

iv. Disinfect high contact surfaces in break rooms, restrooms, and other common areas (i.e. door handles, lobbies, etc.) frequently. Those areas receiving more traffic should be disinfected more often. As a best practice, all businesses should disinfect on the following schedule and maintain a log capturing actions, at a minimum:

1. Public Restrooms: Daily
2. Employee Breakrooms: Daily
3. Employee Restrooms: Daily
4. Portable Restrooms: Daily
5. Other employee shared areas: Daily
6. High contact surfaces (door handles, light switches, etc.): At least twice daily and more frequently if needed

v. Clean visibly dirty surfaces with soap and water prior to disinfecting.

vi. Discourage customers from bringing their own bags, mugs, or other reusable items from home; or if customers do bring their own bag, customers should bag their own goods after purchase/transaction.

vii. Clean and sanitize dressing rooms daily, or at least twice per day if there is high use.

viii. Discontinue use of bulk water dispensers for employees or customers.

ix. Encourage employees to regularly clean workstations. Provide sanitizer/disinfectant and related cleaning supplies for employees to use as practicable.

— County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department at readyslo.org
AngelCon will be held virtually June 30th!

- Watch six startups compete for $100,000 investment
- Network virtually with members of our local business community
- Participate in a crowdfunding show-down to fund the audience choice winner
- Hear from Postal.io’s CEO, Erik Kostelnik
- Receive an update from last year’s winner, De Oro Devices
- Ask questions to our top 6 startup founders in live chat rooms

June 30th
4:00–6:00PM
YouTube Live
$10

Buy your ticket at angelcon2020.eventbrite.com
YouTube link will be distributed via email the morning of the event.

Questions?
angelconference@gmail.com

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TOPICS FOR EMPLOYEE TRAINING:

- Information on COVID-19, how to prevent it from spreading, and which underlying health conditions may make individuals more susceptible to contracting the virus.
- Self-screening at home, including temperature and/or symptom checks using CDC guidelines.
- The importance of not coming to work if employees have a frequent cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell, or if they or someone they live with have been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- To seek medical attention if their symptoms become severe, including persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, or bluish lips or face. Updates and further details are available on CDC’s webpage.

- The importance of frequent hand-washing with soap and water, including scrubbing with soap for 20 seconds (or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol when employees cannot get to a sink or hand-washing station, per CDC guidelines).
- The importance of physical distancing, both at work and off work time.
- Proper use of face coverings, including: Face coverings do not protect the wearer and are not personal protective equipment (PPE). Face coverings can help protect people near the wearer, but do not replace the need for physical distancing and frequent handwashing. Employees should wash or sanitize hands before and after using or adjusting face coverings. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth. Face coverings should be washed after each shift.
- Ensure temporary or contract workers at the facility are also properly trained in COVID-19 prevention policies and have necessary PPE. Discuss these responsibilities ahead of time with organizations supplying temporary and/or contract workers.
- Information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits the employee may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home. See additional information on government programs supporting sick leave and worker’s compensation for COVID-19, including employee’s sick leave rights under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and employee’s rights to workers’ compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order N-62-20.

— County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department at readyslo.org
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COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE: Retail Stores

PHYSICAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES
• Retailers should create clearly-marked curbside or outside pickup points that maintain physical distance with visual cues or other measures, and have purchased goods available there or available through home delivery. • Implement measures to ensure physical distancing of at least six feet between workers and customers. This can include use of physical partitions or visual cues (e.g., floor markings, colored tape, or signs to indicate to where workers and/or employees should stand). • Take measures at checkout stations to minimize exposure between cashiers and customers, such as Plexiglas barriers. Employees should also wear face coverings and customers are strongly recommended to wear face coverings as well. Display signage at entrances, checkout lanes, and registers to remind customers of physical distancing at every opportunity. • Consider offering workers who request modified duties options that minimize their contact with customers and other employees (e.g., managing inventory rather than working as a cashier or managing administrative needs through telework). • Adjust in-person meetings, if they are necessary, to ensure physical distancing and use smaller individual meetings at facilities to maintain physical distancing guidelines. • Place additional limitations on the number of workers in enclosed areas to ensure at least six feet of separation to limit transmission of the virus. • Stagger employee breaks, in compliance with wage and hour regulations, to maintain physical distancing protocols. • Close breakrooms, use barriers, or increase distance between tables/chairs to separate workers and discourage congregating during breaks. Where possible, create outdoor break areas with shade covers and seating that ensures physical distancing. • Close in-store bars, bulk-bin options, and public seating areas and discontinue product sampling. • Dedicate shopping hours for vulnerable populations, including seniors and those medically vulnerable, preferably at a time following a complete cleaning. • Increase pickup and delivery service options for customers to help minimize in-store contact and maintain social distancing, such as online ordering and curbside pick-up. • Provide a single, clearly designated entrance and separate exit to help maintain physical distancing where possible. • Adjust maximum occupancy rules based on the size of the facility to limit the number of people in a store at one time, using no more than 50% maximum occupancy. • Be prepared to queue customers outside while still maintaining physical distance, including through the use of visual cues. • Encourage employees to practice physical distancing during pickup and delivery by talking with the customer through a passenger window, loading items directly into the customer’s trunk without contact, or leaving items at their door. • Make some locations pickup- or delivery-only to minimize employee/customer contact, where possible. • Install transfer-aiding materials, such as shelving and bulletin boards, to reduce person-to-person hand-offs where possible. Wherever possible, use contactless signatures for deliveries. • Expand direct store delivery window hours to spread out deliveries and prevent overcrowding. • Ask non-employee truck drivers, delivery agents, or vendors who are required to enter retail locations to have their employees follow the guidance of local, state, and federal governments regarding wearing face coverings and PPE. — County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department at readyslo.org

$75 NEW PATIENT SPECIAL
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Thank you!

Many thanks to the City of Arroyo Grande and South County Chambers of Commerce for supporting our local businesses during this very difficult season.
We appreciate the work you are doing on our behalf!

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COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE: Dine-In Restaurants

INDIVIDUAL CONTROL MEASURES AND SCREENING

• Provide temperature and/or symptom screenings for all workers at the beginning of their shift and any vendors, contractors, or other workers entering the establishment. Make sure the temperature/symptom screener avoids close contact with workers to the extent possible. Both screeners and employees should wear face coverings for the screening.
• If requiring self-screening at home, which is an appropriate alternative to providing it at the establishment, ensure that screening was performed prior to the worker leaving the home for their shift and follows CDC guidelines.
• Encourage workers who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 to stay home.
• Employers should provide and ensure workers use all required protective equipment, including face coverings and gloves where necessary.
• Employers should consider where disposable glove use may be helpful to supplement frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer; examples are for workers who are screening others for symptoms or handling commonly touched items. Workers should wear gloves when handling items contaminated by body fluids.
• Face coverings are strongly recommended when employees are in the vicinity of others. Workers should have face coverings available and wear them when at work, in offices, or in a vehicle during work-related travel with others. Face coverings must not be shared.
• Establishments must take reasonable measures, including posting signage in strategic and highly-visible locations, to remind the public that they should use face coverings and practice physical distancing while waiting for service and take-out.
• Servers, bussers, and other workers moving items used by customers (dirty cups, plates, napkins, etc.) or handling trash bags should use disposable gloves (and wash hands before putting them on and after removing them) and provide aprons and change frequently.
• Dishwashers should use equipment to protect the eyes, nose, and mouth from contaminant splash using a combination of face coverings, protective glasses, and/or face shields. Dishwashers must be provided impermeable aprons and change frequently. Reusable protective equipment such as shields and glasses should be properly disinfected between uses.

— County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department at readyslo.org
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  - Marketing & Tourism
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- Marty Imes, Executive Director
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  - marty@southcountychambers.com
- Michelle Lea, Bookkeeper

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