



# Returning to Schools Safely

# Agenda

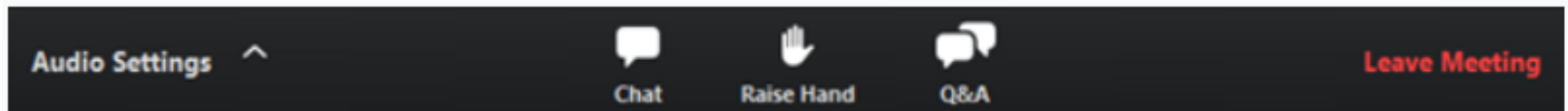
What are we discussing today?

- Welcome & Housekeeping
- Introductions
- Current COVID-19 Situation
- Schools, Kids and COVID-19
- Public Health and Public Schools
- Proactive Actions to Take
- Student Social-Emotional Wellbeing
- Q&A

# Welcome & Housekeeping

## Webinar Participation

- Use Q&A icon in bottom control panel to ask question
- We may respond live in text format
- This webinar will be recorded



# Introductions

Expert Panel

## Presenters

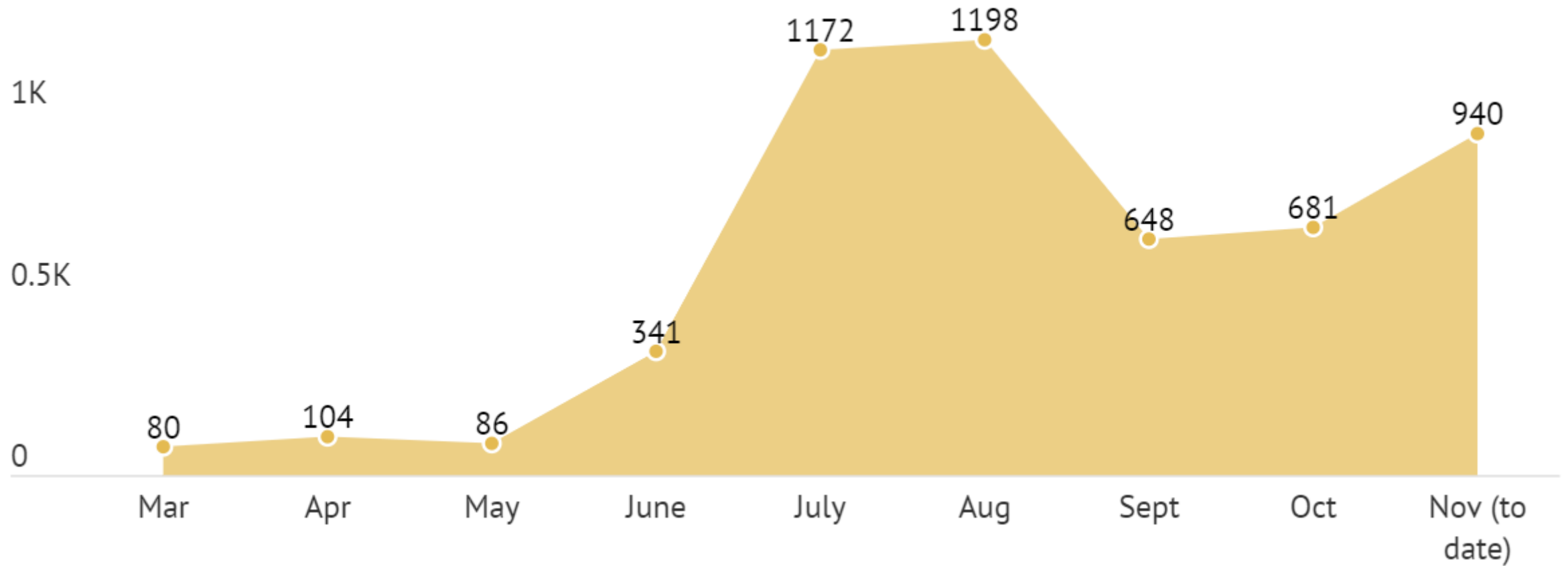
- Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer
- Dr. James Brescia, County Superintendent

## Panelists

- Amber Gallagher
- Courtney Kienow
- Jeffrey Armstrong
- Curt Dubost
- Jen Gaviola
- Eric Prater
- Karen Grandoli
- Kimberly Cheng
- Paul Piette
- Tom Butler
- Chelsea Olson-Murphy
- Jill Stearns

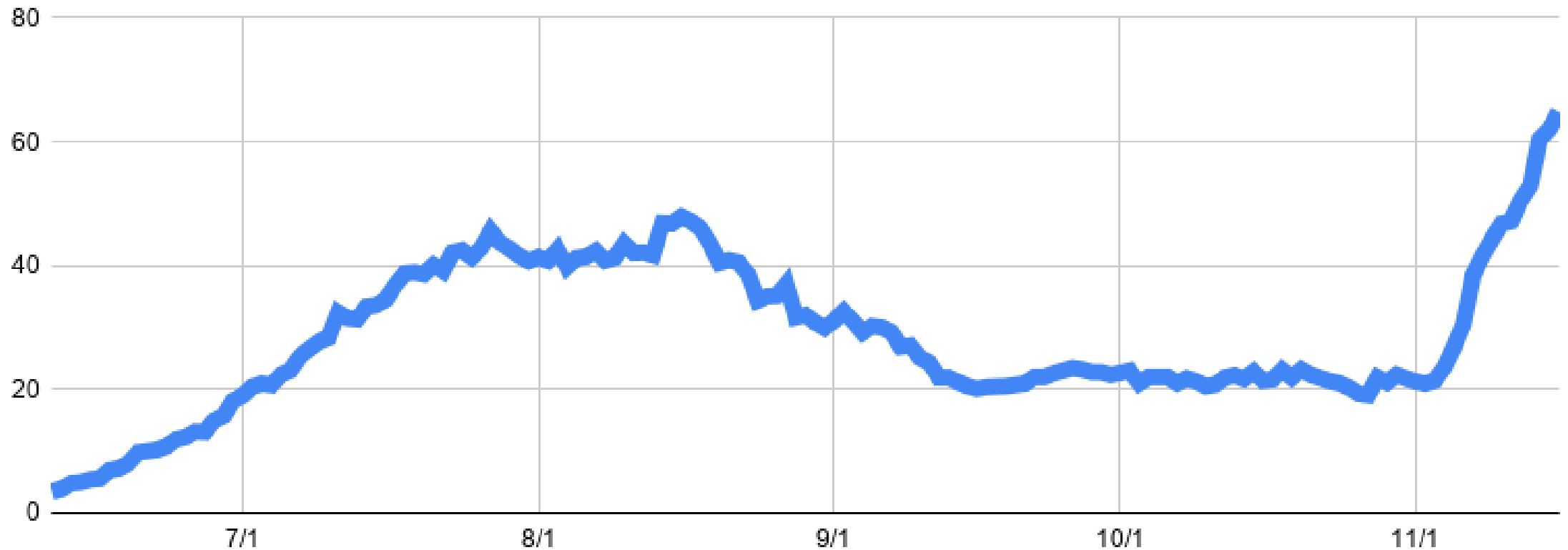
# Current COVID-19 Situation in SLO County

## New Cases by Month



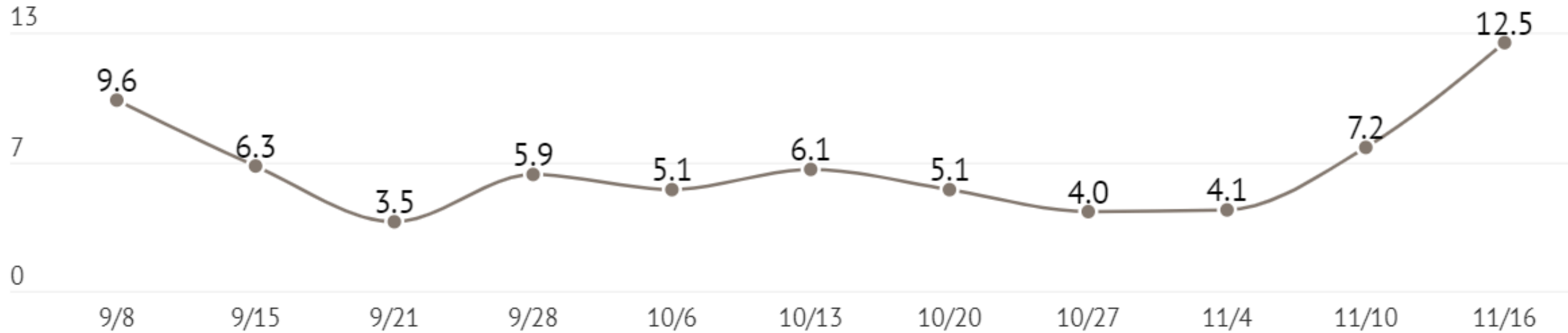
# Current COVID-19 Situation in SLO County

## 14-Day Average Case Count



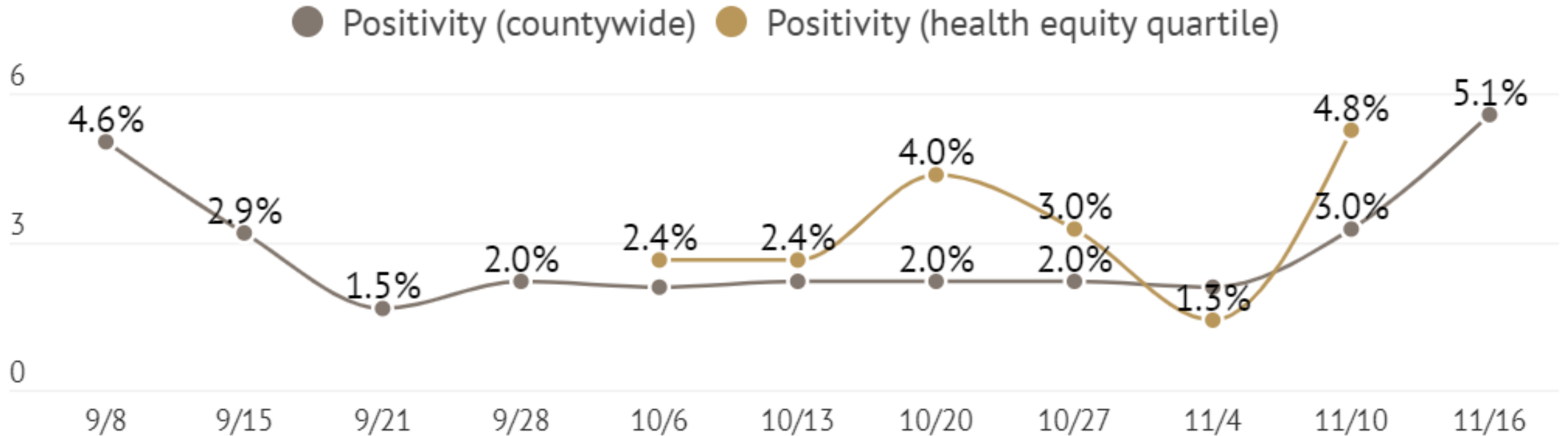
# Current COVID-19 Situation in SLO County

Case Rate (adjusted)



# Current COVID-19 Situation in SLO County

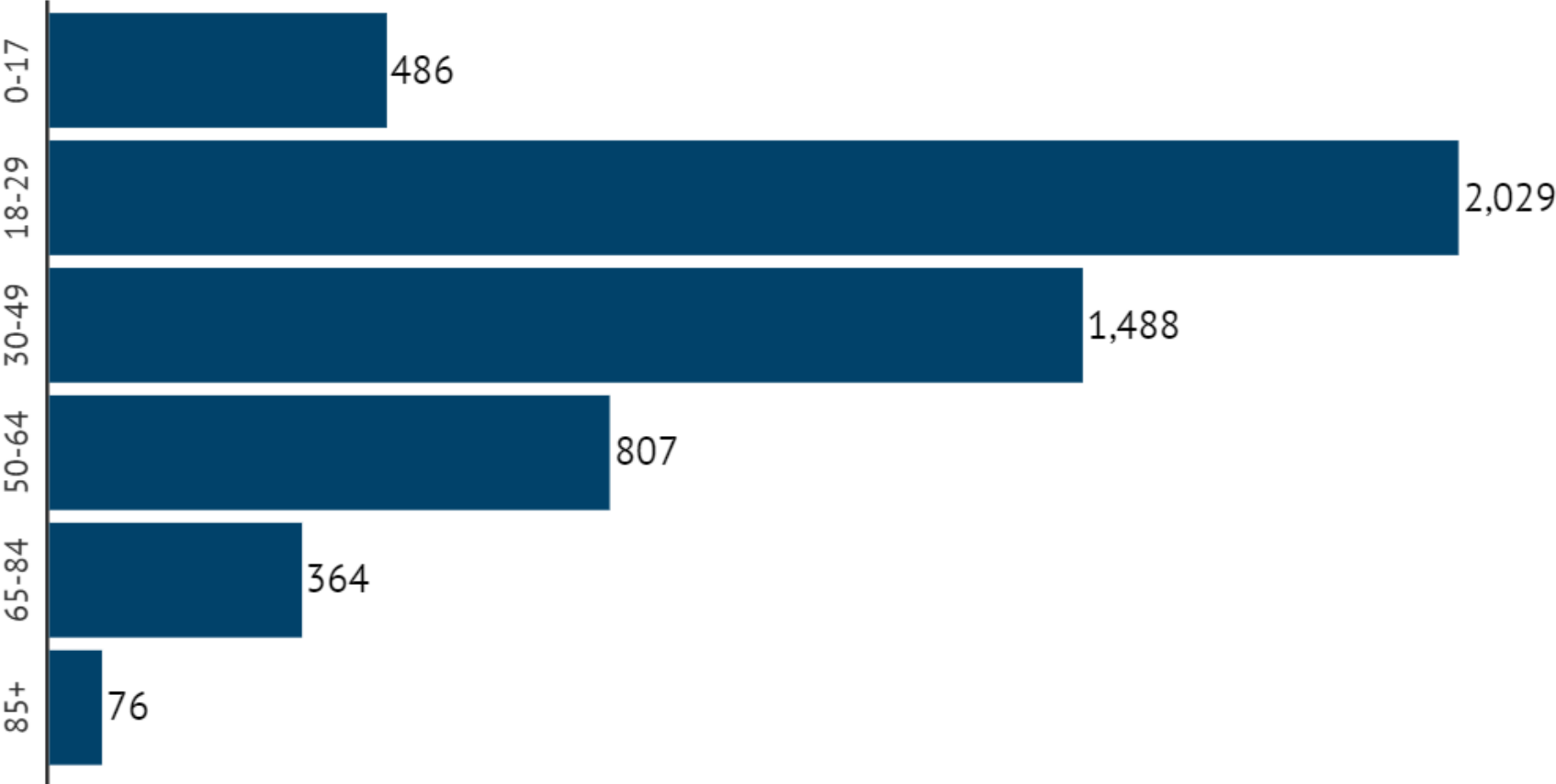
## Positivity Rate



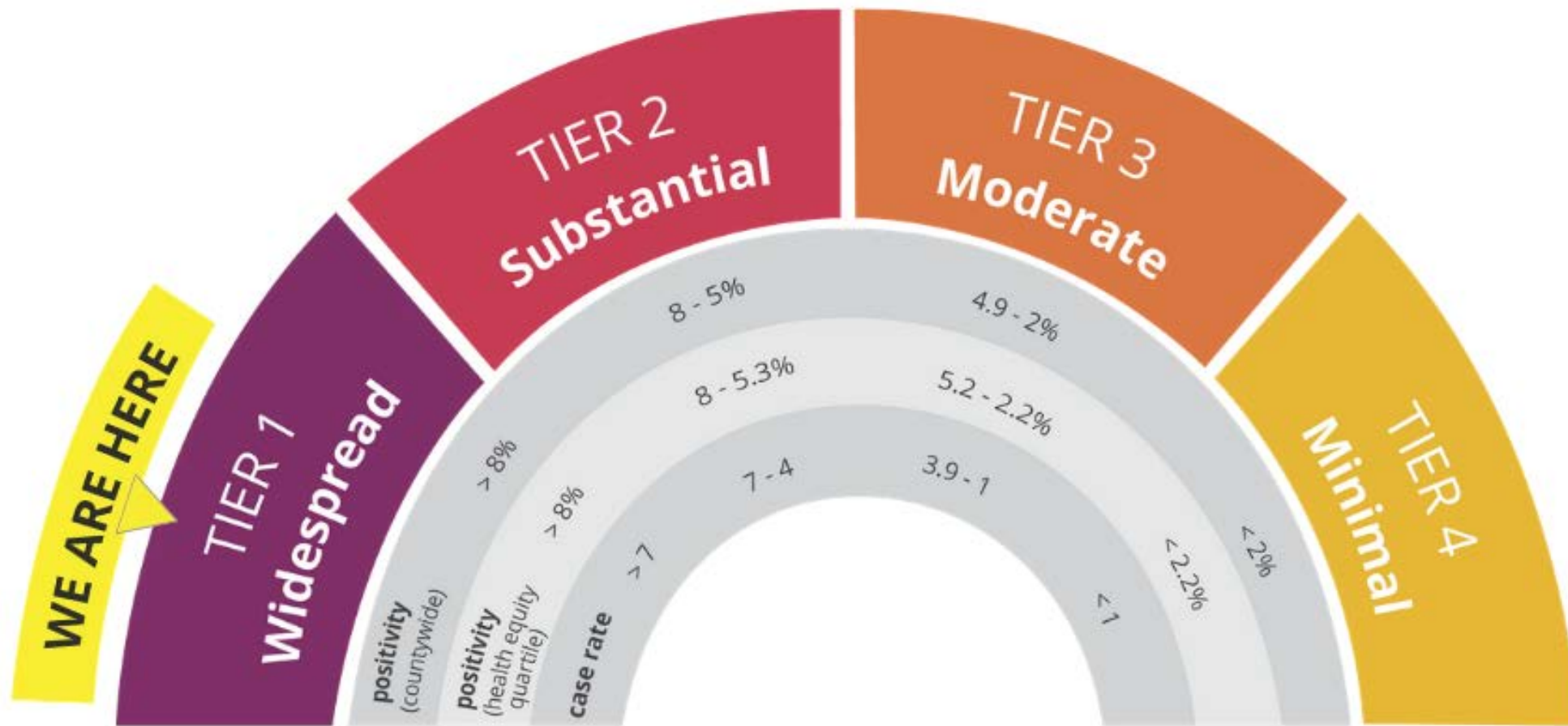


# Current COVID-19 Situation in SLO County

## Cases by Age

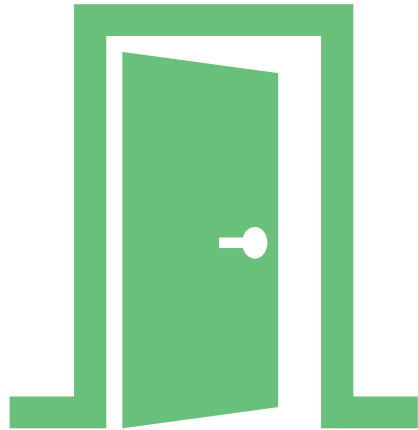


# Current COVID-19 Situation in SLO County



# What Does Purple Tier Mean for Schools?

Those that reopened for in-person instruction in Red Tier



Those that did not reopen for in-person instruction in Red Tier



(until 2 weeks in Red again)

# Waiver for In-Person Instruction

- Based on most current scientific data and local data
- Available for elementary schools (Kindergarten - Sixth grade)
- Apply through County Public Health Department
- Application on [www.emergencyslo.org/schools](http://www.emergencyslo.org/schools)

# Facts About Schools, Kids and COVID-19

- Children & teens can get COVID-19, but don't typically get severe illness.
- Young children are less likely to spread the virus; older children transmit much like adults.
- Children & teens with asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and other underlying medical conditions may be more likely to have severe illness from COVID-19.
- Most common symptoms in children are fever and cough.
- Data collected globally have previously shown that schools can reopen safely when community transmission is low.

# Facts About Schools, Kids and COVID-19

## Benefits of in -person instruction

- Easier access to school services
- Improved educational efficacy
- More opportunities for social interaction
- Return to work for some parents and caregivers

## Risks of in -person instruction

- Higher risk of COVID-19 exposure to child than virtual instruction
- Increases risk of exposure among household members who are vulnerable to severe illness from COVID-19
- Increases risk of exposure to faculty and staff

# Relationship: Public Health & Schools

Shared Goal = Reopen schools as safely and quickly as possible

## Public Health

- Support schools to reopen as safely and quickly as possible
- Advise schools on ways to slow the spread of COVID-19
- Provide guidance for reopening plans
- Coordinate pop-up testing
- Share latest health information with schools, health care providers, and public

## Schools

- Adopt and implement actions to slow the spread of COVID-19
- Request pop-up testing
- Contingency plans for outbreaks
- Close school(s) temporarily if an outbreak occurs
- Communicate with school community, including parents

# Proactive Actions Schools Will Take



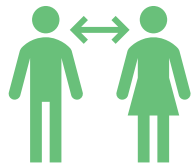
Daily health checks.



Send home anyone with symptoms



Require masks for all staff and students 3rd grade and above.  
(Younger students will be encouraged to wear masks.)



Keeping distance (maintain 6 feet)



# Proactive Actions Schools Will Take



Maintaining stable cohorts or pods



Enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols



Increased ventilation

# Proactive Actions Parents Can Take

- Teach child how to correctly wear a face mask
- Morning health checks
- Get tested (family members with symptoms or possible exposure)
- Child stays home when sick
- Child stays home if close contact with known case
- Stick to your social bubble
- Up-to-date with vaccines

# Proactive Actions Parents Can Take

- Teach handwashing at home
- Create daily routines before and after school
- Talk to child about precautions to take at school
- Create plan to protect most vulnerable household members
- Keep emergency contact info current
- Know your school's plans

# Student Social-Emotional Wellbeing

- Talk to child about changes at school.
- Discuss how interactions might go
- Watch for behavior changes
- Try to attend school activities and meetings
- Ask school about plans to reduce stigma of COVID-19
- Ask school about systems of support for children who need it
- Practice self care (you're a role model)

# Q & A



Thank You!