



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Take Actions Related to COVID-19  
*San Joaquin Residents are Urged to Stay at Home to Help Reduce Deaths and Spread of Virus***

STOCKTON – The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors met today to consider the following action items related to the COVID-19 outbreak:

**Update on COVID 19 Pandemic in San Joaquin County**

San Joaquin County Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Maggie Park provided an update on the latest cases and deaths related to COVID-19. There are currently 141 cases and 7 deaths in San Joaquin County. Dr. Park said that based on the most recent models, San Joaquin County won't see the peak in COVID-19 cases until mid-May. This delayed peak date is because the virus appeared later in San Joaquin than in other California counties. Dr. Park noted that while the County and its member hospitals are prepared for the worst case scenario during the surge, they expect that if the residents follow the "Stay at Home" Order it will help slow the spread of the virus, reduce the amount of people who need to be hospitalized, and lessen the exposure to medical personnel who care for COVID-19 patients.

Dr. Park said that if people do not take social distancing and shelter in place guidelines seriously, then the consequences could be grim with a surge beginning in April and the peak surge in mid-May including the possibility of 919 hospitalizations with 367 in ICU and 183 people needing ventilators with a total of 1,400 people who would need to be hospitalized.

"We've done everything outlined by CDC guidelines to flatten the curve and slow the spread of the virus, from closing schools, to demanding social distancing, to limiting or restricting visits to hospitals, nursing homes and long-term facilities and the list goes on," said Dr. Park. "My concern is that these measures are not enough. We need San Joaquin County residents to step up, follow the rules and stay at home whenever possible to save lives and help us get ahead of our own curve and try to make a difference. It's the only way we can avoid the worst-case scenario for our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and overall community."

Dan Burch from the San Joaquin County EMS Agency reported that the County's hospital systems are preparing for the potential surge of patients following plans that have been exercised and refined to increase hospital capacity, equipment (including 170 ventilators) and infrastructure to meet demand. He also said that they are continually working with local health systems to identify additional facilities in case

the surge in COVID-19 cases goes beyond the anticipated numbers based on modeling. In addition, Zienna Blackwell-Rodriguez, Deputy Director of Public Health noted the success of their lab testing for the virus.

Dr. Park expressed confidence in their ability to eventually share additional patient demographic information while still maintaining maximum confidentiality. The Board of Supervisors encouraged Dr. Park and EMS Administrator Burch to share information as much as possible with the public in order to flatten the curve. Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors stated that providing information can help to encourage residents to stay at home, "The more people get accurate and timely information about COVID-19 the more likely they are to buy into how effective mitigation can be and understand that it's up to all of us to help make a difference."

#### **Temporary Closures and Adjustments of County Department Service Hours**

In addition to the COVID-19 health update, the Board heard presentations regarding the temporary closures and adjustments of service hours for several County Departments and facilities. The Board voted to temporarily close the County Administration Building, Environmental Health, and the shared lobby of Public Works and Community Development to the public as well as the temporary suspension of walk-in counter services in the Office of the Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk and the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office (phone and online service is still available).

#### **Modifications to Employee Sick Leave**

The Board also approved the modifications necessary to implement recent federal legislation (H.R. 6201) to assist employees during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Board action allows County employees to use all existing sick leave accruals if they have exhausted the Emergency Sick Leave Act. Under the Emergency Sick Leave Act, employees are provided 80 hours of paid leave for those that are unable to work due to certain conditions caused by COVID-19. In addition, the Board adopted other changes to provide flexibility to employees including allowing part-time employees to work more than the permitted 1,560 hours per fiscal year to perform essential services; and providing a 5 percent supplemental pay to essential employees for hours worked during this public health crisis.

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