



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates  
*Confirmed Cases and Increase Hospitalizations Continue to Cause Concern***

STOCKTON – Yesterday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors received an update on the COVID-19 pandemic in San Joaquin County and approved several action items.

Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, reported to the Board that the number of COVID-19 positive cases increased significantly in the County so much that they were not able to update the dashboard until Tuesday morning. There are currently 5,600 total cases and 58 deaths in the County, with an increase of 149 cases in the past 24 hours. This is not unusual since the County has often added 200 or 300 cases per day. Most of the increase in cases have been community acquired for the most part, with no history of past contact. The contact tracers have traced some outbreaks to parties in the home and two funerals.

Dr. Park also noted that there has also been a large upswing in the number of hospitalizations in the County, with almost 200 in the seven area hospitals and forty-four patients in the ICU with twenty-four on ventilators. Dr. Park also provided statistics that the State is using to monitor Counties and the projections for San Joaquin County in the next month. The County is projected to have 335 patients in the hospital by August 5 and have 263 deaths by August 5, unless mitigation measures are successful. As a County, we have an elevated disease transmission, which is why we continue to be on the State monitoring list.

Dr. Park also provided an update on the latest State orders, noting that the Governor asked on June 28 that all bars be closed in the seven counties that were on the monitoring list. While the County had never reopened bars, unfortunately, we did have bars in violation of that order. Then, on July 1, the Governor made another announcement with more closures that included all bars statewide for both indoor and outdoor dining. In addition, the Governor closed indoor activities for restaurants, wineries, and cardrooms – leaving only outdoor activities to be allowed. The State is also providing regulatory bodies to assist at the local level on enforcement, including a list of contacts from Cal/OSHA, Alcoholic Beverage Control, and the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.

Dr. Park stated, “We are watching the numbers very carefully, and while we had additional closures which might help reduce our hospitalizations or reduce the spread, we also had July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations and there were parties and gatherings which could also increase the number of confirmed cases and that continues to be a concern.”

Dr. Park did note that in order to mitigate these increased numbers, public health is doing the following:

- In June, Postcards were sent to those at highest risk, 1171 in English, 289 in Spanish and 17 in Portuguese.

- Priority List was developed for Public Health Case Investigators due to the high case load list.
- Health Advisory for COVID-19 sent to Health Care Providers which asks providers to isolate those that have tested positive.
- Prioritizing lab tests similar to the prioritization for contact tracing.
- Public awareness campaign launched on July 1<sup>st</sup> to educate residents about the continued threat of COVID-19 with public service announcements in local radio stations, local TV stations, local newspapers, in both English and Spanish, as well as 20 billboards to be placed around the county.
- Mask On Campaign in conjunction with United Way and Dignity Health.

Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, responded to Dr. Park's presentation by stating, "The numbers we are seeing in San Joaquin County are very troubling and every time I look at the dashboard, my concern for the health and safety of the community increases. As a community we need to each take personal responsibility and protect the most vulnerable by wearing a face covering, maintaining social distancing, and staying home if you are sick."

#### Action Items:

The Board of Supervisors approved \$300,000 in new laboratory equipment for the public health department which will help the County reach 1,000 tests in a week and this equipment can also be used to test tuberculosis and sexually-transmitted diseases. The Board also approved other consent items to accept federal funding.

The Board of Supervisors approved Round 2 of the Small Business Assistant Grant Program to be expanded to cover businesses with up to 250 full-time employees with a maximum grant amount of \$100,000, a new Micro Business Assistance Grant for businesses/non-profits with no full-time employees, a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Grant Program available to small businesses and non-profits. A majority of these programs will be funded through the unexpended funds remaining which is \$7 million and the Board included an additional \$1 million for the PPE grant program.

#### Other COVID-19 updates:

Chris Woods, Director of Human Services Agency, provided an update on Project Roomkey noting that there are currently 69 guests at the Motel 6 on Navy Drive and these individuals are those that are at-risk of contracting COVID-19. In addition, the County has partnered with Gospel Center to provide beds for those that are COVID-19 positive, there are currently 14 guests at Gospel Center that are COVID-19 positive.

Shellie Lima, from the Office of Emergency Services, provided an update on testing in San Joaquin County and reported that the Project Baseline testing site conducted 9,341 tests as of June 30, 2020 and the Optumserve site in Lodi has conducted 4,100 tests as of June 30, 2020.

Dan Burch, Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator, provided an update on the hospitals and the number of beds available in the County and noted that currently there are 197 COVID-19 positive patients in the seven hospitals out of a total of 667 patients which is 29% of all patients. Mr. Burch also noted that the hospitals are at 100% capacity in ICU beds with 40% who are COVID-19 positive.

While the hospitals are at capacity, they are managing the current surge of patients and we are sitting at 70% of overall capacity with the real issue being staffing. They are continuing to discuss strategies with each of the hospitals and look at alternatives to augment staffing.

Jerry Becker, Assistant CAO, provided an update on the Small Business Assistant Grant Program which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 1, 2020. To date, the County has received 476 applications grant requests which were mostly from for-profit businesses and the County contracted with TMC Financing to review the applications. A total of 57 grants have been approved for a total of \$695,057.

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