



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2020

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Update
*New Public Health Order, Social Distancing Impacts,
Homelessness Outreach, Business Assistance and Public Safety Discussed***

STOCKTON – The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors met today to hear the following COVID-19 updates:

Update on COVID-19 Pandemic in San Joaquin County & Updated Public Health Order

- San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, Dr. Maggie Park, gave a presentation on the COVID-19 pandemic in San Joaquin County. She noted that currently there are 314 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in San Joaquin County with 17 COVID-related deaths. She noted that the County saw the largest one-day increase of COVID-19 cases between Monday and Tuesday – 36 confirmed cases – due to enhanced testing through the Verily drive-up testing site. Dr. Park believes additional cases will be identified due to increased testing. She also recognized all County staff and community organizations involved who are working with the County’s homeless population through screening and assistance. Dr. Park also noted that there is no time certain when the County will be able to open back up to regular activities. She said the County will closely follow State guidance by Governor Newsom to make that determination including six objective measures that the State will look at to start reopening parts of the economy and relaxing mitigation strategies.
- Dr. Park introduced Chuck Davis a data scientist from Bayesian who presented updated San Joaquin COVID-19 models illustrating that the County’s curve is certainly flattening due to the social distancing measures that have been put in place. Mr. Davis also unveiled a data map which highlights hot-spot areas in the County for people who are most at risk due to age, economic, social and health conditions. Davis said it is one of the first models in the nation that can collect and analyze this type of information to help inform Public Health officials about where concentrated COVID-19 response efforts should be focused.
- Dan Burch, the San Joaquin County EMS Agency Administrator and Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator, reported to the Board that as of April 13, San Joaquin County has a total of 25 hospitalized COVID-19 positive patients. Of those patients hospitalized, 12 are in the ICU with 8 of those people on ventilators. Mr. Burch also shared good news that the acute care hospitals have reported adding an additional 950 surge capacity beds bringing the total hospital capacity in the county to 1,545. Mr. Burch also stated that the County’s medical/health logistics section has received and delivered over 100,000 individual medical resource request items in the last two business days for personal protection equipment, medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

- Dr. Park also announced that she is issuing a revised Public Health Order that will go into effect at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14. This Order contains changes from the previous Order published on March 26, 2020. Following is a summary of the significant changes:
 1. All residents are still ordered to stay at home or place of residence until further notice. For individuals who are performing essential services while using shared or outdoor spaces, they must, to the fullest extent possible, maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. For those participating in recreational essential activities using shared or outdoor spaces (like exercise or walking a dog), they are required to maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.
 2. All non-essential businesses with a physical location in the County are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the County except as needed to perform Minimum Basic Operations. The new Order identifies the types of activities that qualify as Minimum Basic Operations. The new Order also outlines specific social distancing protocols (in Section 12) for essential businesses and non-essential businesses performing minimum business operations.
 - **Essential businesses** are directed to maximize the number of employees who work from home and may only assign those employees who cannot perform their job from home to work outside the home.
 - **Non-essential businesses** are allowed under the new Order to undertake minimum business operations to protect that business's inventory and facilities, process payroll and provide for the delivery of existing inventory to residences or businesses. Non-essential businesses must comply with all social distancing requirements and protocols outlined in this new Order.
 - **Social Distancing Protocols must be in place for all operating essential businesses and non-essential business performing minimum basic operations before April 18, 2020.**
 Except for employees performing minimum business operations, non-essential businesses shall remain closed to the public.
 3. All gyms, bingo halls, card rooms, bars, tasting rooms, brewpubs and in-dining restaurant services shall remain closed to the public, except for minimum basic operations for appropriate staff. **Restaurants may continue to provide home delivery and takeout.**
 4. All public and private golf courses are to remain closed for play except for minimum basic operations. Golf clubs that are licensed to serve food may do so through pick-up or delivery and must implement and post a social distancing protocol at each facility where food is served. Social distancing is required for people picking up food.
 5. Service providers that facilitate real estate residential transactions (including rentals, leases and home sales) such as real estate agents, escrow agents, notaries and title companies, are permitted to operate provided that they adhere to all of the requirements for essential businesses contained in this Order. Appointments and other residential viewings must occur virtually or, if a virtual viewing is not feasible, by appointment with no more than two visitors at a time residing within the same household or living unit and one individual showing the unit. **In person visits are not allowed when the occupant is still residing in the residence and in-person "Open Houses" are prohibited.** These services must be carried out in compliance with social distancing requirements as defined in this Order. Realtors are recommended to follow the guidelines published by the [California Association of Realtors](#).

"The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed," said

San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, Dr. Maggie Park. “While the evidence in San Joaquin County suggests that the individual efforts taken to date are reducing the transmission rate, it is imperative that everyone continues to abide by the social distancing requirements. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this Order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County.”

Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors responded to the new Public Health Order, stating: “Changes to the current Public Health Order were necessary because they recognize that some critical protocols must be allowed to assist non-essential businesses in preserving their minimum basic operations while at the same time requiring all businesses in San Joaquin County who have interactions with employees or the public to implement and post formal social distancing protocols to protect staff and customers. While public safety is our number one priority, we must maintain some flexibility for business to continue their fundamental operations and eventually get back to work as soon as possible.”

Project Room Key Update to Support Homeless Individuals at Risk for COVID-19

The Board of Supervisors also received an update from County staff on the status of Project Room Key which is a Statewide program to assist homeless individuals who have tested positive, who have been exposed or are in a high-risk category for COVID-19 by providing isolation capacity for these individuals through non-congregate sheltering (NCS) such as hotels. The Board gave multiple County Departments authorization to apply for, accept, and utilize any funding available through State, Federal, and local sources in support of the Project and continue coordinating efforts to finalize the San Joaquin Project Room Key Plan - including securing a site - to provide NCS for eligible homeless individuals.

Economic Development Update

John Solis, Executive Director of the San Joaquin County WorkNet - Employment & Economic Development Department (EEDD) told the Board that there are currently 2,760 displaced workers in the County due to COVID-19. This includes temporarily furloughed employees whose positions will be held open and will continue to receive health and retirement benefits, unemployment claims, and those who have been laid off who might not have access to their previous job and could qualify for COBRA and unemployment benefits. Mr. Solis said that the EEDD Rapid Response team is responding to Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN) notices, assisting County businesses that are currently hiring to fill some 1,845 vacant positions, referring impacted businesses to the Small Business Administration and local financial institutions for Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Payroll Protection Program loans/grants respectively, rolling out the County’s new Emergency Business Support Fund (EBSF) that offers small working capital loans to business impacted by the pandemic, and providing a variety of resources and assistance to employers and displaced workers. Solis also said his Department is actively pursuing \$2.8 million in grant funding for COVID-19 business relief efforts and have received \$150,000 to date.

Public Safety Update

Sheriff Pat Withrow reported that, in compliance with the State’s ordered to follow the Judicial Council’s Emergency Statewide \$0 Bail Schedule Order, the Department has reviewed over 900 cases to determine who meets the criteria set by the Judicial Council Order to be released. Under the criteria, nearly 70 individuals will be released into the community with another 100 people who are still to be determined. The Sheriff said that while he feels inmates and the general population would be much safer if these individuals remained in jail, he said his Department will do everything possible to ensure resident safety and minimize the impacts of this State order to the community.

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