



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Jolena Voorhis  
(209) 468-2997/ [jvoorhis@sjgov.org](mailto:jvoorhis@sjgov.org)

**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates  
*Gyms to Open and Additional Reopenings to Be Decided on a Case-by-Case Basis***

STOCKTON – The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors received an update today on the COVID-19 pandemic in San Joaquin County, provided direction to staff, and approved related actions.

Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, reported to the Board that the number of COVID-19 positive tests are increasing, especially in the last two weeks since more of the County is reopening. She said reopening has resulted in the increase with over 250 positive cases per week in the past two weeks. Dr. Park overviewed the week by week data since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak and noted where they may have been contracted (e.g.: healthcare, travel, workplace, congregate-setting or community based). She said the overwhelming majority of new cases cannot be traced back to any specific source and are being communally transmitted. She said only 15 percent of the total cases can be traced back to an outbreak source, but the majority of cases are related to community-transmission. Dr. Park noted that there were 50 people in the ICU being treated for COVID-19 on June 15, which is an all-time high total of COVID-19 patients in the ICU. She also reminded the Board that the County has been on the State watch list for the past 10 days because of our COVID-19 hospitalization rates and sufficient ICU capacity rates are exceeding the State's guidance. She said we have more people in the ICU than ever before and as some individuals are discharged more are being admitted and as a result, the numbers aren't going down which keeps us on the watch list. She said the total number of ICU beds available across the seven county hospitals for any condition is 10.

Dr. Park is feeling hopeful that there won't be too many more patients admitted in the coming days but that she takes that fact that ICU's are getting full very seriously. The State is measuring whether a county has more than 25 COVID-19 positive cases per 100,000 in a 14-day period and San Joaquin County has over 91 people with COVID-19 per 100,000. Dr. Park said she is urgently requesting that every resident get tested to help meet the metric and get us off the State watch list which will allow more businesses and social activities to reopen. Dr. Park said she is in regular contact with hospital administrators regarding bed space and said they are imploring her to put on the brakes so that hospital staff have the capacity and support to properly treat not only COVID-19 patients in the ICU which account for 24 percent of all ICU admissions, but also all other ICU patients who are being treated for a variety of other serious conditions. While she indicated that she wants to open the County to business and social activities, she has to weigh that with the huge burden and impacts to hospitals and medical staff.

Dr. Park discussed how the County reopened more businesses on June 12<sup>th</sup> to more "low risk" sectors including schools, day camps, pools, casinos, card rooms, racetracks, campgrounds, outdoor recreation and hotels for leisure. She reported that she plans to open gyms and fitness centers beginning tomorrow. She also said she is considering

opening other businesses on an individual basis if she sees that the County's COVID-19 cases and ICU admissions begin stabilizing or decreasing and as the State grants more authority to reopen.

Dr. Park said, "We have no arsenal or weapons against the virus except for social distancing, sanitation, and wearing face masks in public. We need to consider the sense of responsibility to the community so that we can continue to reopen all of the businesses."

Dr. Park said the following State-mandated orders still apply to all California residents:

- Mass gatherings of any number of people are prohibited.
- Residents can leave their homes to engage with businesses and activities allowed by the State.
- Businesses and sectors of the economy that open are required to follow State guidance.
- To prevent further spread of COVID-19:
  - Everyone must continue to observe social distancing protocols, minimize their time outside their homes, and wash their hands frequently.
  - All Californians should not travel significant distances and should stay close to their homes.

Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, responded to Dr. Park's presentation by stating, "It concerns me that when I am out in the community I see fewer people are wearing masks and gloves, it makes me nervous. I care about the people who live here and we need to encourage everyone to protect themselves, to social distance and in doing so, keep our businesses and communities safe and open."

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