



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates
*ICUs rates at capacity, but State projections show signs of hope***

STOCKTON – Today, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors received an update on the COVID-19 pandemic in San Joaquin County.

Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, updated the Board on the number of COVID-19 positive cases and hospitalizations in San Joaquin County. Dr. Park said there are currently 8,799 total cases and 95 deaths in the County, with an increase of 146 cases in the past 24 hours. She noted that there are 88 outbreaks throughout the County in settings such as restaurants, bars, skilled nursing facilities, medical settings and other workplace sites. She said contact tracing shows that a majority of the outbreaks are coming from a community transmission (57%), followed by congregate settings (23.3%) then skilled nursing facilities (19.8%).

Dr. Park also provided statistics that the State is using to monitor Counties and the projections for San Joaquin County in the next month. She said the State's projections for San Joaquin County are beginning to show signs of hope as the numbers are starting to gradually decrease. Dr. Park reported that patients in the hospital is now projected to decrease from 335 to 254 by August 19 and deaths are projected to decrease from 263 to 174 by August 19.

Dr. Park stated, "We aren't out of the woods just yet, but there are some glimmers of hope. The latest forecasts are encouraging and are illustrating that residents are doing the right thing by wearing masks, social distancing and limiting gatherings. It is clearly making a difference and we need to stay determined and keep up the effort."

Other COVID-19 updates:

Dan Burch, EMS Administrator, provided an update on the hospitals and the number of beds available in the County and noted that currently there are 233 COVID-19 positive patients in the seven hospitals out of a total of 780 patients which is 30% of all patients. Mr. Burch also noted that the hospitals are operating at 138% intensive care bed capacity with 73 COVID-19 positive requiring intensive care. Burch also discussed medical staffing efforts taking place in order to care for the surge in COVID-19 patients. He said that Department of Defense Medical Teams from Travis Air Force Base were deployed to San Joaquin County hospitals including 19 medical professionals to Adventist Health Lodi Memorial and another 15 medical staff to Dameron Hospital Association.

San Joaquin County Administrator, Monica Nino, updated the Board on a phone call she recently had with Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services, about San Joaquin County's surge in hospitalizations. She told the Board that the State Administration was concerned about the rising numbers and

wanted to be as supportive as possible to help reduce the overall number of positive cases and resulting people entering the hospital. Ms. Nino said she explained to Dr. Ghaly all of the policy and communication measures being taken by the Board, Public Health and all County Departments to get the word out to residents and businesses to slow the spread of the virus including the County's recent public awareness campaign which could be expanded beyond August. Dr. Ghaly reiterated that the State will be supportive to the County in any way possible. The State is encouraging the county to develop a plan to prepare for three weeks from now in the event the surge in hospitalizations continues.

Greg Diederich, Director of Health Care Services, reported to the Board that the County has more than the required number of trained and available contract tracers our State attestation requires. Mr. Diederich also gave an update to the Board about a smart phone app to help support contact tracing and exposure notification for individuals who may have been exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19. The app, created by Citizen, leverages both Bluetooth and GPS technology to support contact tracing, the proximity, and the duration of the potential contact. The app is available for free to County residents who choose to opt into the service and will soon be launched in coordination with the City of Stockton. San Joaquin County Health Care Services provided Citizen the ability to become available in the app store so that more people could download it which could have some significant benefits if widely adopted.

Brandi Hopkins, San Joaquin County Human Resources Director, updated the Board on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted County staff Hopkins said that:

- 88 County employees from 14 Departments have tested positive for COVID-19 out of more than 7,000 employees. Of those, 28 employees are still off work for COVID-19 reasons;
- 412 employees filed for COVID-19 related unemployment; and
- 95 employees filed for COVID-19 related workers compensation.

Ms. Hopkins also updated the Board about County employee safety and working conditions since reopening County buildings on May 18. Hopkins said the following measures are taking place:

- Personal Protective Equipment is available and provided to employees and customers including: hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, face coverings.
 - Daily Disinfection of high-touch and high-traffic areas
 - Barrier Protections at lobby counters
 - Maximum Capacity has been determined for: elevators, lobbies, breakrooms, kitchens, offices and conference rooms.
- Department Heads have authority to determine appropriate customer and employee screening protocols, alternative work schedules, and where operationally feasible the ability to telework.
 - Employees have access to leave through HR 6201, Family Medical Leave Act, California Family Rights Act, use of existing accruals, and personal leave, if appropriate.
 - Weekly emails to all county employees on safety in the workplace.
- The County also has a website for employees with several resources and protocols (www.sjgov.org/covid19/employees)
- The County will launch a program at the Human Services Agency in early August to allow employees who are interested to be tested for COVID-19.

Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, made clear the Board's focus and commitment to employee safety in the workplace by stating, "We want all County staff to be safe and feel safe when they are at work. Their health and well-being are our number one priority. Communications is essential for employees who have questions so they feel like their concerns are being heard, that their input matters and that the County will do everything possible to quickly respond to concerns."

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