



SAN JOAQUIN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions
With Highly Contagious Omicron Variant in U.S., Residents are Strongly Urged to Get Vaccinated

STOCKTON – San Joaquin County Public Health Officer Dr. Maggie Park told the Board of Supervisors today that COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations continue to show slow declines throughout the County. Dr. Park told the Supervisors that case rates have declined to 9.8 cases per 100,000, which is down from 15.6 on November 2nd. She also said the testing positivity rate has decreased to 3.4% percent and hospitalizations have hovered just below 100 patients per day.

San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of December 7, 2021:

- 103,449 total COVID-19 cases; 1,839 deaths; 72 people hospitalized; 31 people in ICU
- To date, 969, 945 vaccines have been administered to county residents.
- 59.8% (412,833 residents) are fully vaccinated and another 9.0% (61,931 residents) have received partial vaccinations through the County, as well as other multi-county entities, hospital systems, and pharmacies
- 68.8% of San Joaquin County's total population has received at least one dose
- County hospital ICU's are over 100% full, but only 27% of hospital ICU beds are filled by COVID-19 patients

To view weekly updates of the County's COVID-19 statistics, visit:

<http://www.sjcphs.org/Disease/Epidemiology.aspx>

Dr. Park addressed the new Omicron variant by saying, "Delta was our only variant of concern, but Omicron is now our other variant of concern. There are many stories coming from South Africa, but additional data needs to be collected. Current science indicates vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant, which means now is still the time to get vaccinated against COVID-19."

Dr. Park gave the Board an update on vaccinations, which included additional information on booster shots. While vaccination efforts for those most at risk have increased, actual vaccinations of residents have continued to stay steady. She said that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has now expanded their recommendation to state everyone 18 years and older should get the booster shot. She said people 18 years and older who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are eligible to receive a booster 2 months after their initial shot. People who received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccination are eligible to receive a booster 6 months after their second dose. She also emphasized that individuals could mix and match their vaccinations and do not need to get the same vaccine that they originally received. Residents are encouraged to check www.SJReady.org or www.MyTurn.ca.gov to find booster and vaccine locations.

Dr. Park and David Culberson, CEO of San Joaquin General Hospital, spoke on the availability of monoclonal antibody treatments at San Joaquin County Clinics. Monoclonal Antibody Therapy is available to patients 12 years and older with mild-to-moderate COVID-19. Treatment works best soon after COVID-19 symptoms begin, it is important to get tested right away.

Dr. Park shared the visual art contest, supported by Kaiser Permanente Northern California Community Benefit Programs and the Community Foundation of San Joaquin, for ages 5-11 and video contest for ages 12-18 has ended and winners are being notified this week. More than \$20,000 in prizes will be awarded to youth in the County. Winning artwork will be shared during the next COVID-19 discussion.

Dr. Park also provided some advice on ways for individuals to protect themselves for the holidays. Tips include getting vaccinated, receiving a booster shot if eligible and staying home if you are feeling sick. If visiting with family, it is recommended to test 1-3 days before gathering or traveling, even without symptoms. It is also suggested that those who travel should test when returning, or 3-5 days after gathering with others.

Supervisor Tom Patti, Chairman of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, responded to Dr. Park's presentation stating, "Based on our County data, we have significantly lower cases than we did this time last year. Although we are still coming out of a summer surge in cases, this is good news. Our efforts are paying off, what we have asked our residents to do is paying off. We continue to remind residents that being vigilant and protect themselves by getting tested, vaccinated, and/or wearing a mask as they may need to do will help keep our medical system from being overwhelmed in the winter months."

Consent Items

- Approved use of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act grant funds for the acquisition of a sealant melter and applicator machine in the amount of \$153,711 and related budget adjustments.

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