



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions
*The County is Ready to Distribute Mass Vaccinations - Waiting on the State to Distribute Vaccines***

STOCKTON – Today, Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, told the Board of Supervisors that while San Joaquin County still remains in the Purple (Widespread) Tier, that COVID-19 positivity rates and hospitalizations are declining, which will help move the County into the Red Tier. Dr. Park said that even though our numbers are declining, the County’s case rate is still too far above the State’s requirement to move us forward into the next tier and that it is imperative for residents to continue getting tested so we can enter the Red Tier.

San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of February 9, 2021:

- 64,396 total confirmed COVID-19 cases to date
- 929 total COVID-19 deaths to date
- 174 COVID-19 current patient hospitalizations
- 62 COVID-19 adult cases in ICU, 41 patients on ventilators
- ICU total patient capacity is at 136 percent
- COVID-19 patients currently occupy 46 percent of total ICU hospital beds
- Testing positivity countywide is at 9.1 percent, the lowest number since December 1, 2020
- The county’s case rate is at 31.7 cases per day per 100,000 population

Dr. Park gave an update on the status of vaccine distribution in the County. The vaccine is still being given to Phase 1a priority groups, which include health care workers, long-term care patients, and those 65 and older. She noted that as soon as additional vaccines are provided to the County, they can focus on Phase 1b priority groups, which may include people working in education, child care, emergency services, food, and agriculture. To date:

- 64,200 doses have been allocated to San Joaquin County
- 43,175 doses have been allocated to healthcare providers
- 62,253 total doses have been administered through the County, other multi-county entities, Walgreens and CVS
- 48,716 people have received their first dose*.

**These numbers are based upon doses entered into the Immunization Registry only- actual administered doses are higher.*

Dr. Park said that communities of color aren’t getting vaccinated at the same rate as the rest of the community. She said some of the under vaccination is due to hesitancy about getting the vaccine and that more needs to be done to educate communities about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. She also said that plans are underway to ensure these communities are prioritized once vaccines are readily available to the County. This would include mobile vaccine units and mass vaccination sites in neighborhoods where residents are underrepresented and are more likely to be hospitalized if they contract COVID-19.

Dr. Park and County staff also discussed the successful implementation of the [BridgeWorks system](#) that is an online platform to help eligible residents register to receive a vaccination or express their interest in receiving -the vaccine as soon as doses become available. It was reported that the massive program was developed and launched in about ten days through multiple partnerships and collaborations and that 18,000 people have already registered since February 4, 2021. For those residents who do not have access to the Internet, 2-1-1 is providing registration services.

San Joaquin County Vaccination eligibility and general information can be found at www.sjready.org.

“The BridgeWorks registration system is completely unique to San Joaquin County. It gives us the capability to see which areas people are signing up from and where we need to focus additional efforts, especially in communities of color where vaccination rates are low. We plan to use our health communities maps along with our CORA data to accurately identify individuals likely to be hospitalized and have a significantly higher chance of death due to COVID-19. And, as soon as vaccines become more readily available, we are more than ready to administer these life-saving immunizations,” Dr. Park said.

Shellie Lima, the Director of the Office of Emergency Operations, gave the Board a report about the County’s vaccination plan, saying that the County is ready to distribute up to 35,000 vaccinations per day as soon as the state and federal government can provide enough vaccines. Ms. Lima said the County has identified at least 64 potential vaccination sites and are working with cities, fire districts, clinics, nurses, paramedics, and EMTs to set up vaccination teams that would help administer between 400 – 1,200 vaccine doses per site per day. She said the County has built the comprehensive infrastructure to administer the vaccines and are now just waiting to receive them. She also noted that COVID-19 testing rates are declining and encouraged residents to continue getting tested in order for the County to move from the Purple Tier to the Red Tier.

“All of the colossal efforts made by multiple departments and local partners over the last couple of weeks to be in a position where we can administer tens of thousands of vaccinations per day is phenomenal. We commend everyone involved for this amazing, concerted, and well-coordinated effort. As soon as the State distributes vaccines in mass quantities, I believe the County is very well positioned to get them administered quickly and efficiently to every resident who wants one,” said Supervisor Tom Patti, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors.

The Board also voted 5-0 on an Urgency Ordinance to impose a temporary cap on the fees that may be charged by third-party food delivery services and prevents the reduction of per-order compensation of delivery workers until health guidelines allow 100% indoor seating capacity in restaurants or until the end of the declared County health emergency due to COVID-19. The Ordinance would apply throughout the County and its cities to support restaurants, which oftentimes get charged excessive fees to have food delivered to customers, especially during the pandemic when seating capacity is limited, and delivery may be the only option. Some of the Ordinance guidelines include:

- A delivery firm cannot impose upon a restaurant any fee or combination of fees that in total constitute more than fifteen percent (15%) of the purchase price for order and delivery of each online order that is delivered to a customer by the delivery firm.
- A delivery firm cannot reduce the compensation per delivery of online orders, including any tip or gratuity, paid to any delivery worker. A delivery firm will also pass on to delivery workers and will not retain any tip or gratuity paid by a customer to a delivery worker.

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