



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 5, 2021

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### **San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions** *County remains in Red Tier as COVID-19 case rates increase and vaccination and testing rates decrease*

STOCKTON –San Joaquin County Public Health Officer Dr. Maggie Park told the Board of Supervisors yesterday that San Joaquin County remains in the substantial Red Tier for the fourth week in a row. The County’s adjusted case rate is currently 8.2, up from 7.7 last week, and had reached as high as 8.9 in recent days. The uptick may be due to social factors including Easter gatherings, non-compliance with safety behaviors, new virus variants, and vaccine hesitancy, Park noted.

Currently San Joaquin County has 51 residents hospitalized, 15 of which are in the ICU, but that figure is up from the 31 cases that were treated in hospitals last week. New variants and variants of interest are one probable culprit to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, which county officials are closely monitoring. The rate of growth for the B.1.1.7 variant has pushed it to become the dominant strain in California, representing 45% of the state’s sequenced cases. In San Joaquin County there have been 36 confirmed cases of the B.1.1.7 variant so far.

#### **San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of May 2, 2021:**

- 222,780 total doses have been allocated to San Joaquin County Public Health Services for community disbursement
- 265,457 total residents have been fully or partially vaccinated through the County, plus through other multi-county entities, hospital systems, and pharmacies comprising 34% of San Joaquin County’s total population
- 47% of residents aged 16 or over are either fully or partially vaccinated
- 8.2 daily adjusted new cases (per 100k)
- 3.1% positive tests for the entire county
- 3.0% positive tests for health equity quartile

To view all of the County’s COVID-19 statistics, see the dashboard at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4ec4f8e1dfd142998d1732c7f5c79e45>

Dr. Park told the Board that the County Office of Emergency Services, the Public Health department and Joint Information Center have launched a public education campaign that includes digital billboards, TV spots, and Spanish and English radio. The advertising program is meant to work in conjunction with community vaccination sites and public events.

“Our on-the-ground efforts are now more important than ever to educate residents about why, where, and how important it is that they get vaccinated,” Park said. “The only way we are going to open up faster is to vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate but also get tested, socially distance and keep wearing a mask in large group settings.”

Like most other parts of the country, vaccination rates have significantly slowed in the county both in first and second doses. The current rate of non-compliance for the second dose stands at 6.5%. The county hopes to motivate more

people to get vaccinated through the public education campaign as well as the implementation of strike teams, contact tracers, and partnerships with business councils and other community groups to reach individuals directly. The effort strives to remove the barriers that may be preventing people from receiving a vaccination.

Dr. Park informed the board that the county has also just updated its public health guidelines in line with the CDC's recent amendment that allows fully vaccinated people to be maskless when outdoors, except in crowded settings such as live performances, parades, fairs, festivals and sports events.

San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Chairman Tom Patti concluded stating, "The work being done here to get these vaccines out to every part of our county is impressive. Residents need to know that the vaccines are safe, effective and that they have access to them if they want it."

**Consent Items:**

- Approved first amendment to Agreement (A-20-348) with Chem-Dry of Lodi/Stockton to increase funding from \$455,000 to \$655,740 through June 30, 2021.
- Approved the increase in the financial allocation for Agreement (A-20-225) with Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc., by an additional \$12,000,000 to a total amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 for the period June 14, 2020 to June 13, 2021, and related budget adjustments.
- Retroactively Approved of agreement with the State of California, through the California Emergency Medical Services Authority, for supplemental staffing, effective December 18, 2020 through June 30, 2021, with a financial allocation amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.

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