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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions

COVID-19 cases are spiking throughout the County, especially among younger age groups

STOCKTON – San Joaquin County Public Health Officer Dr. Maggie Park told the Board of Supervisors yesterday that COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations are continuing to spike since the State reopened on June 15. She said the Delta variant is spreading across the County, predominantly among people who are unvaccinated.

San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of August 10, 2021:

• 80,528 total COVID-19 cases; 1,491 deaths; 163 people hospitalized; 39 people in ICU; 13 people on ventilators
• 9,847 total COVID-19 cases occurring in ages 0-17 (over 12% of total cases)
• 405,010 total residents have been fully or partially vaccinated through the County, as well as other multi-county entities, hospital systems, and pharmacies comprising 62.3% of San Joaquin County’s total population
• 49.8% of residents aged 12 or over are fully vaccinated and 12.5% are partially vaccinated
• 25.6 daily new cases (per 100k), up from 11.5 on July 27
• 9.3% positive tests for the entire county, up from 6% on July 27

To view a weekly update of the County’s COVID-19 statistics, visit: http://www.sjcphs.org/Disease/Epidemiology.aspx

Dr. Park told the Board the spike in cases is presenting in younger people oftentimes who are unvaccinated. “The current increase in COVID-19 cases is occurring in people in their 20s, 30s and 40s,” Dr. Park said. “As cases are rising, we are starting to see an uptick in people getting vaccinated, which is at least a bit of good news. We continue to encourage residents to get their vaccination and wear masks which is the only way to ensure people of all ages stay healthy and out of the hospital.”

The Board heard an update about the Relief Across Downtown (RAD) Card Program, which is a $1,000,000 virtual gift card match program approved by the Board of Supervisors to support local small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The following highlights were reported since the program officially launched on June 30th:

• 190 businesses have enrolled in the program
• $538,692 has been spent at local businesses since it launched
• Consumers have spent $603,500 to purchase RAD Cards equating to $1,199,575 in consumer purchasing power
• Feedback has been positive from both business and consumers
• Plans are underway to provide more outreach to local businesses to participate in the RAD Card program and provide program information in Spanish

“We want to thank San Joaquin County residents for participating in this inventive RAD Card program that provides important and needed assistance to our local businesses while they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic,” stated Supervisor Tom Patti, Chairman of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors. “The program has been well-received in the community, and we encourage residents to download the RAD app, deposit funds into their RAD account and
receive matching dollars to make purchases at participating businesses. It is a win-win for residents and local businesses."

The Board also adopted a resolution regarding mask mandates which includes the following: 1) Return the governing power for school safety protocols back to school districts; 2) Advocate for parental choice for the masking and vaccination of their children; 3) Assist school districts in giving students the opportunity to return to a normal classroom setting; and 4) Seek the assistance of State and Federal governmental agencies and elected officials involved in school safety protocols in returning these authorities to local school districts. The Board will send a written request to CDPH requesting revisions to its guidance to eliminate mask mandates for children including in the classroom, at summer camp and while participating in youth sports and/or exercise.

Consent Items
Retroactively approved the third amendment to the agreement with the Community Foundation of San Joaquin for the Housing for the Harvest Program to extend the term through December 31, 2021, total cost not to exceed $1,148,000 and related budget adjustments.

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