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

With COVID-19 cases resurging throughout the County, testing options and locations are expanding

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 surge and will soon bypass the rates of last summer prior to the introduction of vaccines. She said the majority of people in the hospital are those that are unvaccinated.

San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of August 23, 2021:

- 83,121 total COVID-19 cases; 1,498 deaths; 263 people hospitalized; 64 people in ICU; 50 people on ventilators
- 10,739 total COVID-19 cases occurring in ages 0-17 (nearly 13% of total cases)
- 425,306 total residents have been fully or partially vaccinated through the County, as well as other multi-county entities, hospital systems, and pharmacies comprising 65.4% of San Joaquin County's total population
- 52% of residents aged 12 or over are fully vaccinated and 13.4% are partially vaccinated
- 34.8 daily new cases (per 100k), up from 25.6 on August 11
- 8.5% positive tests for the entire county
- 10.6% positive tests for the Healthy Places Index (HPI) quartile

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

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

Dr. Park discussed the latest quarantine and State public health orders which include:

- Indoor Mega events have been modified and if attendance exceeds 1,000 people they are required to show verification of a recent COVID test or full vaccination
- For people who are unvaccinated and are exposed to the virus, their quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing
- For people who are unvaccinated and are exposed to the virus, their quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative
- For people who are vaccinated, an asymptomatic exposed person does not have to quarantine if fully vaccinated but should get tested 3-5 days after exposure

Vaccination requirements apply to the following:

- Health care workers in high-risk settings
- Visitors in acute health care and Long-Term Care Settings
- Health care workers
- Workers in schools (Transitional Kindergarten to 12th Grade)
- State and local correctional facilities and detention centers

Dr. Park told the Board that residents ages 12 and over who are immuno-compromised are eligible immediately to receive a third dose of their vaccine to help ensure they are protected from the virus. Residents who are receiving cancer treatments, organ transplants, stem-cell treatments, moderate or severe immunodeficiency, advanced or untreated AIDS infection, or active treatment with medicines to suppress the immune response are urged to talk with a health care provider about whether a third dose is appropriate for their condition. In addition, per federal guidelines, the general public is encouraged to get a booster shot eight months after their last vaccination in order to prolong their immunity.

Dr. Park also highlighted the expanded COVID-19 testing sites throughout the County as well as the testing methods that are being offered to residents. This includes the gold-standard PCR test which provides the most reliable test results, and the Rapid Antigen Test which provides an immediate test result but may provide somewhat less reliable results. She also discussed concerns with an “immunity” test being offered to the community through independent vendors and health care providers which has mixed results. “I’m hoping the public understands that COVID antibody tests might make folks think they have immunity, but in reality, we don’t know exactly what these test results really mean in relation to the level of immunity an individual may or may not have. Even with a positive antibody test result, people should still get the vaccine as well as wear masks, socially distance, and wash hands in order to protect themselves and others. We have to keep up with all of those things because this test is not going to give you enough information to know if you are truly immune from the virus.”

The Chairman of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, Tom Patti, responded to Dr. Park’s presentation stating, “We need to make sure we are doing everything possible to get people tested and reduce the risk of a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus. This means getting the PCR and rapid antigen tests out in the community as soon as possible through expanded testing locations, additional testing equipment, temporary or expanded laboratory facilities, and additional lab staff in order to expedite tests and prevent people from spreading the virus.”

Board Actions

The Board approved \$33.7 million for the Family COVID Assistance Grant (FCAG) and the Small Business Assistance Grant (SBG) programs in American Rescue Plan Act funding for residents and businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will provide:

- \$1.7 million to fully fund Round 1 of the FCAG program and to cover costs incurred by the County Human Services Agency for the administration of the program.
- \$12 million to fund a second round of the FCAG program with a target launch date of September 1, 2021.
- \$20 million to fund a fourth round of the SBG program also with a launch date of September 1, 2021.

Businesses and residents interested in applying for a grant can visit: www.sjgov.org/covid19/grants

Consent Items

- Approved fourth amendment to agreement (A-13-175), food and concession agreement, lease and permit for commercial activities between the County of San Joaquin and Top Flight Grill and Catering.
- Approved resolution authorizing the reassignment of administration and transfer of associated federal and state funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to State Department of Housing and Community Development; and related budget adjustments.
- Approved to accept a donation of infant and toddler supplies valued at \$105,212 from SupplyBank.org for distribution to low-income families negatively and financially impacted by COVID-19.

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