



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions
*With COVID-19 cases beginning to decline throughout the County,
residents are encouraged to continue getting vaccinated*

STOCKTON –San Joaquin County Public Health Officer Dr. Maggie Park told the Board of Supervisors yesterday that COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations are beginning to decline throughout the County, which could point to a plateau in the virus.

San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of September 13, 2021:

- 95,258 total COVID-19 cases; 1,610 deaths; 231 people hospitalized; 77 people in ICU; 65 people on ventilators
- 12,730 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
- 54% of residents aged 12 or over are fully vaccinated and 9% are partially vaccinated
- 29.5 daily new cases (per 100k)
- 6.6% 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 noted, "It appears we are emerging from the Delta variant surge, but we are keeping a close watch because of Labor Day gatherings as well as people ordering rapid tests from private companies and not necessarily reporting a positive test. However, it appears we are at a plateau, which is great news. Hopefully, this decline is real and can be sustained especially with new variants being identified and as we enter cold and flu season."

Dr. Park also shared with the Board some requests for support that Public Health Services is asking from the State Department of Public Health, which include:

- Assistance from the State and Federal government for 3rd dose booster shots for skilled nursing facility residents
- Continued State support with an Outbreak Response Team van which is dispersed to schools, skilled nursing facilities, and homeless shelters throughout the County to respond to outbreaks by providing testing
- Additional contact tracers who can help inform people that they may have been exposed to COVID-19
- State contracted/facilitated vaccinating and testing resources. The State has provided 30 State contracted nurses to serve in ICU's and emergency departments

- Additional support for SNAPNurse mobile vaccine events that will soon provide testing as well
- Expanding COVID-19 testing sites and hours through OptumServe, a State contracted company

Dr. Park told the Board that the California Department of Public Health recently updated their guidance on youth activities, which requires youth to wear masks while participating in all indoor school activities such as sports, band, or choir. If those activities cannot be performed indoors, the activity would be moved outdoors or that weekly PCR testing would be performed, even among youth that have already been vaccinated.

The Chairman of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, Tom Patti, responded to Dr. Park's presentation stating, "It is clear we need to continue encouraging testing and vaccinations in order to increase the momentum in beating the virus. We are continuing to get tests and vaccinations dispersed throughout the community, we are doing everything possible to prevent and respond to outbreaks and we are addressing the increased demand to provide rapid testing to residents throughout the County."

Board Actions:

The Board approved a transfer of \$4,163,465 from American Rescue Plan Act funds to the First 5 San Joaquin (F5SJ) Commission budget to fund COVID-impacted services for the period of September 14, 2021 through June 30, 2023. Programs include:

- **SJ TEETH** – Coordinates with several community-based organizations to assist families in finding a Medi-Cal dental provider, secure dental appointments to increase access to oral health care.
- **Help Me Grow** – Helps children receive periodically-based developmental and behavioral screens and connects families to a wide range of services such as referrals to home visiting programs, housing assistance, mental health services, health insurance, food assistance, general childhood development information, provider training, and family education.
- **Grandparents Initiative** – The project partners with community-based organizations to connect identified grandparents in the community to a Care Coordinator that assists them in: developing and implementing Quality Growth Plans; utilizing Raising A Reader, an early literacy and family engagement program; conducting screenings and referral services for health insurance, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), CalFresh (food stamps), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); administering developmental screenings through the Ages & Stages Questionnaires; and delivering training and technical assistance related to child development, school readiness, and quality interaction and environments.
- **Home Visitation Expansion** – A voluntary, evidence-based program where trained professionals visit parents regularly during pregnancy and through the early years. Home visitors also connect families to a broad range of available, supportive resources in the community. Through these visits and referrals, home visiting programs reduce parental stress, improve child health and development, and help parents bond with their child.
- **Parent Engagement** – Parent/Family Engagement is a relationship-based, mutual, respectful, and responsive partnership between families, early learning and care providers, and other school readiness professionals to promote children's development, learning, and wellness.

Consent Items

- Retroactive authorization for the Airport Director to accept the Federal Aviation Administration American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 grant in the amount of \$2,326,108.
- Authorized the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund (#20250) to the operating transfer budget (#1010804000) to continue the RAD Card Program in San Joaquin County.
- Authorized agreements with HR Support, Inc., to provide COVID-19 rapid antigen testing through October 31, 2021 in an amount up to \$556,000 and vaccine distribution through December 31, 2021 in an amount up to \$800,000 and approval of related budget adjustments.

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