



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions
Despite steady decline in COVID-19 cases, County still has high case rate

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 show promising declines throughout the County. Dr. Park reported that case rates as compared to the height of the Delta variant surge, continues to drop steadily, but it is still quite high at 26.7 daily cases per 100,000 population.

Dr. Park noted, “I’m happy to report that hospitalizations continue to show a steady decline since the peak of the Delta variant in August. Additionally, mortality rates remained stable over the past few months. In fact, the County did not see spikes in mortality proportionate to spikes in infections and hospitalizations from the Delta variant, which can be attributed to an increase in vaccinations.”

San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of September 28, 2021:

- 95,158 total COVID-19 cases; 1,642 deaths; 183 people hospitalized; 64 people in ICU; 56 people on ventilators.
- 702,969 vaccine doses have been administered in the County.
- 56.7% (368,464 residents) are fully vaccinated and another 8.7% (256,340 residents), have received partial vaccinations through the County, as well as other multi-county entities, hospital systems, and pharmacies comprising 65.4% of San Joaquin County’s total population.
- 65.4% of the population has received at least one dose.
- Case rates have fallen by about 45% since the summer peak.
- County hospitals remain at 100% capacity, but only 48% of hospital ICU beds are filled by COVID-19 patients.

To view weekly updates of the County’s COVID-19 statistics, click [here](#).

Dr. Park briefed Supervisors on recent decisions by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) related to the eligibility of Pfizer booster shots. The two agencies approved a third booster dose as of September 24 for certain populations, based on evidence-based studies from the United States and Israel, which point to declines in vaccine effectiveness over time against infection and hospitalization.

Dr. Park told the Board that San Joaquin County is following the CDC and FDA guidelines, which recommends the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster vaccine be administered six months or later from the date of the primary vaccine series for those age 65 years and older, long-term care residents, and those age 50-64 with underlying medical conditions or those who are at increased risk of social inequities.

Additionally, the County will follow the CDC and FDA guidelines for those who may consider receiving a booster, which includes people age 18-49 with underlying medical conditions, or those who are at increased risk of exposure due to their occupational setting. High-risk occupational settings include first responders (healthcare, firefighters, police, and congregate care staff), educational staff, and workers in food and agriculture, manufacturing, corrections, postal services, public transit, and grocery services.

Dr. Park also said COVID-19 testing remains a priority. The County continues to operate 16 fixed sites, 10 of which are equipped to administer rapid testing along with PCR tests. The County also still dispatches mobile testing vans to high-traffic and underserved communities around the County. All information about the County's vaccination and testing facilities can be found at www.sjready.org.

Supervisor Tom Patti, Chairman of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, responded to Dr. Park's presentation stating, "We are very pleased to see that case rates, hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline week-after-week. It shows that our COVID-19 efforts to reduce the spread of the virus are working and we appreciate San Joaquin County residents for taking the necessary precautions to combat COVID-19."

Board Actions:

The Board approved \$837,628 from the County's contingency provision budget directed toward the University of the Pacific for essential COVID-19 expenses.

Consent Items

- Retroactive approval of funding award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for community health workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities for the project period of August 31, 2021 through August 30, 2024, with a first-year approved funding amount of \$994,646 for the period of August 31, 2021 through August 30, 2022.

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