



SAN JOAQUIN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions
COVID-19 cases are beginning to plateau leading to concerns about a winter surge

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 slight declines throughout the County but are beginning to plateau. Dr. Park told the Supervisors that case rates have marginally declined from 15.6 cases per 100,000 which is down from 16.1 on October 12th. She also said the testing positivity rate has stalled at 5 percent and hospitalizations have remained around 100 patients per day.

San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of November 1, 2021:

- 100,005 total COVID-19 cases; 1,775 deaths; 97 people hospitalized; 25 people in ICU; 14 people on ventilators
- 880,020 vaccine doses have been administered in the County
- 60.3% (393,709 residents) are fully vaccinated and another 8.3% (52,992 residents) have received partial vaccinations through the County, as well as other multi-county entities, hospital systems, and pharmacies
- 68.6% of San Joaquin County's total population has received at least one dose
- County hospital ICU's are over 95% full, but only 24% of hospital ICU beds are filled by COVID-19 patients

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

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

Dr. Park noted, "The current plateau in testing, case rates and hospitalizations is concerning especially with the winter months approaching, more people gathering indoors during the holidays and the upcoming flu season. We need to continue doing the work to get more people vaccinated and ensure they continue to wear masks and social distance inside public spaces in order to avoid another COVID outbreak surge."

Dr. Park said some of the potential reasons for the plateau include the reopening of schools, a slow-down in vaccination rates, people being more relaxed with masking and social distancing, outbreaks at skilled nursing facilities and colder weather bringing people indoors where transmission is more likely.

Dr. Park reported that the primary reason for COVID-19 cases is due to the Delta variant stating that 95 percent of COVID cases are due to this variant. She shared some good news that San Joaquin County Clinics are now offering COVID-19 monoclonal anti-body treatment for patients 12 years and older with mild-to-moderate COVID-19. The treatment can lower the amount of virus in the body, reduce symptoms and help avoid hospitalizations. People who have tested positive for COVID-19 are encouraged to call (209) 468-6820 to see if they are eligible and to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Park gave the Board an update on vaccinations for 5–11-year-olds. She said that the county public health department received an initial shipment of 1,100 Pfizer pediatric doses today to administer to the younger population and are now waiting for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to give their official stamp of approval for this age group before they can begin vaccinations. The CDC decision is supposed to occur today, and vaccinations could begin as early as Thursday or Friday.

Dr. Park also reiterated who is eligible for booster shots. She said people 18 years and older who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are eligible to receive a booster 2 months after their initial shot. People who received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccination are eligible to receive a booster 6 months after their second dose. She also emphasized that individuals could mix and match their vaccinations and do not need to get the same vaccine that they originally received.

Dr. Park announced a visual art contest for ages 5-11 and video contest for ages 12-18 that highlights the following question: “As more people get vaccinated against COVID-19, what do you most look forward to doing?” More than \$20,000 in prizes will be awarded. The deadline for art and video submissions is November 5, 2021. For more information visit: www.sjvaxFTW.com.

Supervisor Tom Patti, Chairman of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, responded to Dr. Park’s presentation stating, “While the news of a plateau in COVID-19 testing, cases and hospitalizations is troubling, we want to acknowledge all of the tremendous progress we’ve made over the past months in addressing COVID-19. We now ask residents to continue being vigilant and protect themselves by getting tested, vaccinated, and/or wearing a mask as they may need to do. This will help keep our medical system from being overwhelmed in the winter months when people are in emergency rooms or hospitals for other severe injuries and illnesses.”

Consent Items

- Retroactive approval and acceptance of the funding award of California Equitable Recovery Initiative (CERI) from the California Department of Public Health for the period September 1, 2021 through May 31, 2023, in the amount of \$809,213 and approval of related budget adjustments.

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