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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions
Countywide positivity rate remains low, but County health officials brace for a potential upsurge

STOCKTON – The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors received updates today on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic from Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer. Dr. Park reported that the County's positivity rate remains relatively low at 3.7 percent as compared to the current statewide average of 3.2 percent, and that as of yesterday there were only 28 patients hospitalized, six of which were in ICU.

Dr. Park told County Supervisors that these statistics are well below the number of cases the County recorded in mid-July and August and reflect a persistent trendline that was reached in early Fall.

San Joaquin County COVID-19 current statistics:

- 22,365 total confirmed cases
- 494 deaths
- Positivity rate 3.7 percent
- Hospitalizations 28, six in ICU, as of Nov 2, 2020
- COVID patients occupy five percent of total hospital beds

San Joaquin County remained in the red tier again this week. "Our testing positivity rate ranked the County in orange, our testing positivity rate in the health equity quartile increased from the week prior and also still remains in orange, but our case rate stayed in red and because of that we did not move up to the orange tier," Dr. Park explained.

Park also notified the Board that there are signs suggesting the County may be at-risk of dropping back to the purple tier due to increasing case rates. California public health officials are seeing an uptick across the state and project a surge in the weeks ahead, possibly attributed to opening of schools, and colder weather pushing activities indoors and Halloween.

Case rates would need to be recorded above seven per day on average for two consecutive weeks for the state to move San Joaquin County from the red to purple tier. However, Dr. Park cautioned supervisors, "If we continue to hover around an average of seven cases per day as we have, the County will be pushed up over the threshold to purple." The County's new cases per day per 100k is 6.0 which is lower than the statewide rate of 7.2.

While San Joaquin County's agricultural workers had previously ranked among the highest contributors to spreading the virus over the summer months, that is no longer the case based on contact tracing. Currently, it is young people ages 18-24 that rank as the number one at-risk population, followed closely by those ages 25-34. These groups have stood out for the past several weeks as the highest-ranking groups by age that are at-risk of contracting and silently transmitting the virus.

The City of Lodi also now currently tops all other cities in the County for the highest case rate at 83.59 per 100,000, followed by Lathrop at 68.72, and Tracy in third position at 68.62 per 100,000.

"It's a warning to us and the public that we need to stay focused on keeping our case rates down," said Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors. "The County encourages residents to isolate and stay home if they are exposed or feel ill, and to get tested even if they are feeling well, to drive our positive rates down. Most importantly, wash your hands frequently and wear a mask when you travel beyond your home. As we move into cooler temperatures, social distancing alone is insufficient."

The County is now testing 231.1 per 100,000, with some recent days as high as 235+ per 100,000, which is on par with the statewide median.

Dr. Park also updated the Board on new and augmented State industry guidelines that affect movie theaters, amusement and theme parks, personal care services, gyms, hotels, professional sports and family entertainment centers.

Residents are also encouraged to go to www.sjready.org as the County's main source of information for testing sites.

COVID-19 Consent Items:

- Retroactive authorization to submit a grant application to the California State Department of Housing and Community Development for the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for additional funding for Emergency Solutions Grants Program – Coronavirus in the amount of \$3,000,000 and related budget appropriations and revenue increase for CARES Act Funds.
- Retroactive approval of agreement with Casella Bros Inc., DBA Brick House for \$641,280 to provide food and delivery service to Project Roomkey motel locations from July 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020.

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