



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 17, 2020

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions**  
***Unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases causes San Joaquin County to fall back to Purple Tier***

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 increased positive case rate over the past two weeks of 16.4 people per 100,000 resulted in a return to Purple Tier status per the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#).

Dr. Park told County Supervisors that San Joaquin County is one of forty-one counties in California, representing 94% of the state's population, that have been placed into the Purple Tier meaning businesses and organizations must be more restrictive. This move by the California Department of Public Health is one of many they are implementing to help slow the recent rise in cases statewide.

**San Joaquin County COVID-19 current statistics:**

- 24,171 total confirmed cases
- 504 deaths
- Positive case rate 16.4 per 100,000 residents
- Hospitalizations 81; 18 patients in ICU; and 10 on ventilators as of November 16, 2020
- COVID patients occupy 12 percent of total hospital beds

Dr. Park told the Board that as of yesterday, thirty-nine counties California were moved backward – some more than one Tier. San Joaquin County's adjusted positive case rate is now 16.4 cases per day per 100,000 people, which is more than double the requirements to remain in the Red Tier.

“County residents were doing really well following the rules for about six weeks in the Red Tier, which allowed business operations to expand, get kids back in school and lower our number of COVID hospitalizations and deaths. But with the holidays approaching, we are seeing more mass gatherings and people relaxing on mandated Public Health orders,” said Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer. “We know that people are tired of the stringent protocols, but they are the only weapons we have to combat the virus. Now, more than ever, we need San Joaquin County residents to step up and take these actions seriously - wash hands, wear a face covering, limit gatherings, get tested and socially distance. Otherwise, we could be right back where we were in July, and nobody wants that.”

A return to the Purple Tier means many local businesses will now have to close indoor business operations or reduce capacity. Effective November 17, the following businesses will have these restrictions:

- Family entertainment centers: Outdoors only with modifications
- Gyms and fitness centers: Outdoors only with modifications
- Movie theaters: Outdoors only with modifications
- Museums, zoos and aquariums: Outdoors only with modifications
- Places of worship: Outdoors only with modifications
- Retail: Open indoors with a maximum of 25% occupancy
- Restaurants: Outdoors only with modifications
- Shopping centers: Open indoors with a maximum of 25% occupancy
- Schools that were open previously for in-person learning, will remain open following State Guidance.

Personal care services, nail salons, hair salons and barber shops can still remain open indoors with modifications in the Purple Tier and must follow the State's industry guidance. Any schools that have reopened for in-person learning while San Joaquin County was in the Red Tier, or with an approved waiver, are not required to close and can remain open. Schools that have not yet opened will need to receive a waiver to reopen under the Purple Tier or wait until San Joaquin County has moved back into the Red Tier. Due to the current case rate, San Joaquin County does not meet the stipulations to accept school waiver applications at this time.

"We are seeing an uptick in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to large gatherings. While we all need to make our own individual decisions this holiday season, it's critical that we take into account the lives and livelihoods of everyone in the community," said Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors. "It's a hard decision to make, but we need to step up and listen to our Public Health officials and refrain from gathering with others which will protect families, front line workers, essential businesses and the overall community."

Dr. Park also highlighted a revised State Gathering Guidance, Face Covering Guidelines and a Travel Advisory. The Gathering Guidance mandates gatherings that occur outdoors and are limited to three households or less. The Face Covering Guidance mandates that a face covering is required at all times when outside of the home, with some exceptions. The Travel Advisory recommends that those traveling into California from other states and countries self-quarantine for 14 days and Californians to remain at home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries.

Dan Burch, Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator, provided an update on the hospitals and the number of beds currently available in the County and moving forward. He said while COVID-19 patients occupy 12 percent of beds in the County's seven hospitals they are managing the current increase in COVID positive patients by implementing strategies for the expected statewide surge to make sure there are enough beds, equipment and protection measures to help keep patients and medical staff safe. He also said physicians have more knowledge about the disease process and more effective treatments which should lead to more successful outcomes than at the beginning of the epidemic.

**Other COVID-19 Related Items:**

- Retroactive approval of acceptance of funds from the California Department of Public Health for funding received through the Federal Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Program from May 18, 2020 through November 17, 2022 in the amount of \$7,372,417 and adoption of a resolution to allocate 17 Positions in the Public Health Services for COVID-19 efforts.
- Approval of the community service agreement with Parents by Choice for School-Based Interventions from November 17, 2020 through June 30, 2021, for a total cost not to exceed \$298,926.

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