



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions  
*Board Approves \$1 Million RAD Gift Card Program to Assist Countywide Small Businesses***

STOCKTON –San Joaquin County Public Health Officer Dr. Maggie Park told the Board of Supervisors today that while extensive community vaccination events have greatly increased the number of vaccinated residents, the County still remains in the Purple Tier due to an increased COVID-19 case rate of 11.7 per 100,000 people along with a slightly elevated positivity rate in its health equity measurement at 5.4 percent.

“The County classifies in the most restrictive Purple Tier because our case rate crept up past the goal set by the California Department of Public Health of 10 to 11.7 daily new cases per 100,000 as well as our health equity quartile positivity rate,” Park reported today. “We needed to have two measures in Orange to move to the Red Tier, but we are working extremely hard to get these numbers down again, primarily by way of widespread mobile vaccination units targeting San Joaquin’s priority populations as well as aggressive outreach efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.”

**San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of March 23, 2021:**

- 144,215 total doses have been allocated to San Joaquin County for community disbursement
- 156,753 total doses have been administered through the County, plus through other multi-county entities, hospital systems, Walgreens and CVS
- 50% of residents aged 64 and over are vaccinated, representing 41% of all vaccinations
- 77,248 of all residents are fully vaccinated
- 11.7 daily new cases (per 100k)
- 4.6% positive tests for the entire county
- 5.4% positive tests for health equity quartile

To view all of the County’s COVID-19 statistics, see the dashboard at

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4ec4f8e1dfd142998d1732c7f5c79e45>

The County’s [www.sjready.org](http://www.sjready.org), managed by the County’s Office of Emergency Services (OES), is a hub for all the COVID information the public needs to locate scheduled community vaccination events. “OES has been working around the clock putting on a tremendous number of events for those in the 1A and 1B

categories and those who have medical conditions,” Park told supervisors. “Throughout April, we will continue to focus on priority populations including our farm labor and agriculture workers specifically.”

Greg Diederich, Director of Health Care Services, provided an update on the status of negotiations with Blue Shield and the State regarding the Third-Party Administrator (TPA) agreement. Due to concerns from all counties on the terms of that agreement which would restrict local prioritization and limit continued local partnerships, counties are now reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) directly with the State. The MOU is much more favorable to counties and allows them to redistribute their allocation to non-county organizations which is critical for San Joaquin County. While San Joaquin County has not yet signed the MOU, it expects to do so by the end of March to continue receiving direct vaccine allocations.

Supervisors asked Dr. Park about reasonable expectations for the unrestricted reopening of businesses, schools, churches, and other large-form gathering facilities. Dr. Park said that the earliest that businesses could reopen would be in two weeks. The County has to increase its testing numbers and lower its confirmed cases. To completely reopen, the county must progress to other less restrictive tiers that will allow larger events to occur.

### **Relief Across Downtown (RAD) Gift Card Program**

On a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the transfer of \$1.0 million from the contingency provision budget and authorized agreements with the Downtown Modesto Partnership to implement the Relief Across Downtown (RAD) Gift Card Program. This program will assist San Joaquin County small businesses to recover faster from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by encouraging spending at local businesses. The RAD gift card, previously established and managed by the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County, is a free, downloadable digital gift card which easy to use. The buyer fills it with funds up to \$100 maximum. The RAD program matches whatever money was put on it (up to \$100), and the participant can spend those funds at participating local small businesses within the County, such as restaurants, retailers, and personal care service providers, using its built-in QR code. Implementing a RAD Card program would require an agreement with the Downtown Modesto Partnership, the owner of the RAD Card, to provide support. After reviewing certain legal and administrative details, the RAD program could be implemented in the next two weeks and the County would work with the local Chambers of Commerce to market the program.

“We’ve received extraordinary feedback from businesses and Chambers of Commerce throughout the County asking us to implement the RAD gift card program,” said Supervisor Tom Patti, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors. “We’ve heard the impactful stories of how this program has kept many businesses from shutting down over the past months and we are thrilled to be able to offer this program to our small and local businesses.”

### **Consent Items:**

- Approval of the third amendment of an Emergency Master Occupancy Agreement between San Joaquin County and Eshpal Hospitality Property LLC, DBA Motel 6 located at 817 Navy Drive, Stockton, California extending the term through June 30, 2021.
- Approval of amended grant agreement with the California Department of Public Health for Supplemental Immunization Program funds for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021,

increasing the grant amount by \$255,895 with a maximum payable amount of \$1,382,252 for the grant term of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022.

- Approval of increase to the purchase order with Arjo Inc., for rental of the RotoProne Bed and Maintenance Service Support for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, at an amount not to exceed \$850,000.

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