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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions
Public health officials activate countywide vaccine disbursement to area hospitals today;
Board votes 5-0 to approve \$15M in new COVID-19 relief funds to families, small business

STOCKTON – Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, told the Board of Supervisors this morning that the County had received its first allotment of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and that the rollout to all seven San Joaquin area acute care hospitals had begun as of this morning. Healthcare workers will begin receiving vaccinations today.

“Vaccines are here and it is great news,” Dr. Park told the Board in her regular briefing today. “It’s the first major mark of turning a corner on this virus and we’re fully prepared to administer our vaccine allotment as rapidly and as efficiently as can be done.”

San Joaquin County Public Health Services received an initial allocation of 4,875 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine today, enough to vaccinate all frontline healthcare personnel who requested vaccination at the seven acute care hospitals serving San Joaquin County. The County expects additional vaccine allotments next week, and the area’s skilled nursing facilities are slated to start receiving vaccines the week of December 28.

“The State of California directs vaccine allotment, distribution to counties, and recipient prioritization,” Park said. “At the County level, we have developed the framework in which to administer the vaccine, including management, storage, and distribution to hospitals.”

San Joaquin County COVID-19 latest statistics as of December 15, 2020:

- 32,641 total confirmed COVID-19 cases to date
- 537 total COVID-19 deaths to date
- Averaging 700 confirmed cases on a single day
- 319 COVID-19 current patient hospitalizations
- 78 COVID-19 adult cases in ICU with 49 patients on ventilators
- ICU total patient capacity is at 117 percent
- COVID-19 patients currently occupy 62 percent of total ICU hospital beds
- Testing positivity countywide is at 15.1 percent
- The county’s case rate is at 68.4 cases per day per 100,000 population

San Joaquin County remains under State mandated COVID-19 restrictions that likely will stay in effect into January. The Regional Stay-At-Home Order went into effect on December 5. These protective measures are prompted when available ICU capacity drops lower than 15 percent. As of yesterday, the San Joaquin region had zero percent ICU capacity.

The Board of Supervisors also voted unanimously to allocate \$15 million to fund a revised Small Business Grant Program and a Family Rent and Mortgage Assistance Program, both designed to extend critical financial relief to renters, homeowners, and small businesses. These programs will be funded through a transfer from County contingency funds in the General Fund.

The new Family Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program will focus on helping renters and homeowners with payment of past due rent or mortgage or the reimbursement of rent or mortgage based on COVID-19-related harm that individual families have incurred. For small businesses, relief funds will focus on reimbursement of PPE and other COVID-19 related expenditures, as well as relaxed criteria for rent or mortgage expenses.

“These dollars cannot come soon enough for the families and businesses that are suffering undue hardships from COVID-19,” said Chair of the Board of Supervisors Kathy Miller. “It is critical that we keep people and families in their homes to prevent a wave of evictions. Covering rent, including past due payments and utilities, will help bridge the gap until federal relief arrives. People need some hope.”

Both programs are being fast-tracked to deliver relief as quickly as possible, planned to begin before year-end. Applications will be handled on a first-come, first-serve basis. The County Administrator’s Office will assess how the two programs perform and the need for additional funding allocations will be based on that assessment and on whether additional relief funds are delivered from federal sources.

The County received over 1,000 applications and processed 720 grants totaling \$7.7 million from CARES Act Funds for the previous Small Business Grant Program rounds.

COVID-19 Consent Items:

- Approval of a second amendment of an Emergency Master Occupancy Agreement between San Joaquin County and G6 Hospitality Property, LLC DBA Motel 6 located at 817 Navy Drive in Stockton extending the term through March 31, 2021, and related budget adjustments.
- Approval of agreement with Gospel Center Rescue Mission, Inc., to continue to provide isolation capacity in a congregate setting for homeless COVID-19 positive individuals, for \$480,000 from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021, and related budget adjustments.
- Retroactive acceptance of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Allocation of \$1,307,331 for older adult programs through the California Department of Aging from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, and related budget adjustments.

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