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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions**  
***With red tier status and additional re-openings, County is exploring ways to move to orange tier***

STOCKTON – The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors received updates and took actions yesterday related to the COVID-19 pandemic in San Joaquin County.

Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, updated the Board on the number of COVID-19 positive cases and hospitalizations in San Joaquin County. Dr. Park said there are currently 20,731 total COVID-19 cases and 471 deaths in the County. Dr. Park said that there are currently 31 COVID-19 patients in the hospital with 11 in the ICU, noting that the numbers are significantly coming down and have allowed the County to move into the State’s red tier status.

Dr. Park explained that under the State’s new tiered system, which is based on a County’s rate of new cases and the testing positivity rate, that San Joaquin County moved into the red tier on September 29<sup>th</sup> indicating “substantial” transmission of COVID-19 in the County. This is due to the fact that the County now has less than 7 new cases per 100,000 per day being identified at 6.8, and less than 8 percent of tests being positive at 4.7 percent. As of today, those metrics are even lower, with 6.4 new cases per 100,000 per day and has a positivity rate of 4.2 percent.

Per the State’s new guidelines, at a minimum, counties must remain in a tier for at least three weeks before moving to a less restrictive tier, and Dr. Park said that signs are looking good that the County will move to the orange tier in the coming weeks. She noted that San Joaquin is currently in the orange tier for testing positivity (4.2%), but still remains in the red tier for adjusted case rates (6.4%).

“Great progress is certainly being made by San Joaquin County residents which is demonstrated by our vastly reduced numbers,” Dr. Park said. “Our increased testing has truly made a difference in our tier status and I continue to encourage residents to continue testing whether or not they have symptoms and continue wearing a mask, social distancing, limiting gatherings and washing hands. It is the only way we can get businesses, schools and activities reopened and get our lives and livelihoods back on track.”

Dr. Park also discussed the new Health Equity guidelines which were released by the State Department of Public Health last week. In addition to meeting State criteria for rate of new cases and testing positivity rates throughout the entire population, counties must now meet those same standards for their lowest socioeconomic quartiles of the Health Places Index, in order to move to the next tier. Throughout the State and in San Joaquin County, those groups include Hispanic/Latino, African American/Black, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American

Indian/Alaskan Native communities who may not have the same access to vital services such as adequate health care, food, housing, transportation and other life-sustaining measures. j

Dr. Park noted that the County is well aware of these communities and specific neighborhoods and have been working long-term to assist these residents, prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic. She said that according to the State, these communities must meet a test positivity rate of 5.2 percent to have the County move to the orange tier and in San Joaquin County we are currently very close to meeting that metric at 5.9 percent. Dr. Park said they are working in neighborhoods where these communities traditionally reside in order to further reduce the testing positivity rates by doing the following: protecting essential workers with increased PPE; isolating people who have tested positive for COVID-19 with programs like Housing for the Harvest; wearing masks, physical distancing, washing hands; promoting existing test sites; increasing testing for essential workers and at-risk individuals; and exploring new testing options to make testing easier and quicker.

Charles Davis from Bayesian supported Dr. Park's presentation with a COVID Outcome Risk Assessment report which identifies people who are most at risk to contract COVID-19, those who are expected to be hospitalized and those who are most likely to die from the virus. Mr. Davis said that lack of medical care is only a small portion of why disproportionately impacted communities are more at risk of getting severe forms of COVID-19 and that other factors such as individual behavior, social circumstances and genetics are larger factors in becoming seriously ill with the virus. He said the assessment can help the County's Public Health staff develop a highly targeted strategy to identify who is at most risk for getting COVID-19, help inform local health facilities of potential hospitalizations; and concentrate on specific areas where education, testing and eventual vaccines will be impactful.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed deep-seated health, social and economic inequities for communities of color and amplifies the need to do everything we can to ensure they are protected from the virus or are cared for if they contract COVID-19," said Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors. "The level of data and information contained in this Risk Assessment report will help the County drive policy decisions and focus our efforts and resources on helping those communities who need it most with the services they urgently need."

#### **CARES Act funding Update:**

Chief Deputy County Administrator, Sandra Regalo, gave the Board an update on the County's \$133 million allotment in federal CARES Act funding to cover costs during the period of March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020, for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19. Any dollars not spent before December 30, 2020 must be returned to the federal Department of the Treasury.

In addition, the County will receive an additional \$17.8 million as a sub-recipient from the State, for a total of \$150.8 million in Federal and State CARES Act funding.

It is projected that the County will spend \$161.2 million as follows:

- \$15.0 million already expended between March 1 – June 30, 2020;
- \$7.7 million for Small Business Grants through December 30, 2020;
- \$126.7 million projected for County Departments through December 30, 2020;
- \$11.8 million for planned projects through December 30, 2020;

Utilizing the entire \$150.8 million in total Federal and State CARES Act funds, the County will absorb a shortfall of approximately \$10.4 million.

In the event any CARES Act funds remain, the Board provided authority to the CAO to enter into agreements with rural Fire Districts or for costs related to COVID-19 testing.

**COVID-19 Consent Items:**

- Acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program COVID-19 supplemental and approval of related budget appropriations in the amount of \$133,799.
- Retroactive approval of agreement with Chem-Dry of Lodi/Stockton for \$455,000 to provide COVID-19 specialized disinfectant spraying and cleaning services from July 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020.
- Retroactive approval of agreement with BOLT Staffing Service Inc., for \$555,000 to provide staffing services for Project Roomkey, the Human Services Agency, and First 5 San Joaquin from July 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020.
- Retroactive approval of agreement with the California Department of Public Health for the HIV Care Program COVID Relief and approval of related budget adjustments for the period April 15, 2020 through March 31, 2021, for a maximum amount of \$103,781.

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