



**SONOMA COUNTY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Santa Rosa Community Health and Sonoma County Medical Association
partner to expand equitable vaccine access**

SANTA ROSA, CA – As part of the countywide effort to ensure equitable access to vaccinations, Santa Rosa Community Health and Sonoma County Medical Association are partnering to administer vaccines for under-deserved communities and those without access to health care.

Santa Rosa Community Health will manage vaccine procurement and reporting, as well as outreach and scheduling for people in the 95407 zip code and other impacted communities in south, southwest and central Santa Rosa. Sonoma County Medical Association will leverage its volunteer network of medical professionals to administer the vaccines at both agencies' clinics at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds and other locations.

"As vaccine eligibility expands to 16 and older and the third-party administrator comes fully on board, it is even more critical that we have strong systems in place to prioritize and vaccinate people who have been most impacted by COVID-19 and to do so in a way that is responsive to each community's needs," said Naomi Fuchs, CEO of Santa Rosa Community. "Leveraging our trusted relationships with SCMA's expert capacity will help all of us meet our shared goals for equity."

Sonoma County Medical Association's vaccine clinic at the fairground's Grace Pavilion has been seeing 600+ people/day and is staffed by 30+ staff and volunteers daily. When vaccines became a reality in January, SCMA quickly rallied a volunteer network that now numbers more than 300 people, many of whom are retired physicians and nurses, to support the county vaccination effort.

“We’re thrilled to be partnering with Santa Rosa Community Health at this critical time to enhance health and equity in our community. This builds on the systems we’ve developed so together we can vaccinate our underserved community members quickly and effectively,” said Wendy Young, Executive Director of Sonoma County Medical Association.

SCMA has administered over 15,000 doses of vaccine, including designated clinics for health care, essential business and agricultural workers. Santa Rosa Community Health, which provides health care to over 40,000 low-income and diverse residents in Santa Rosa, has administered more than 10,000 doses to date, more than half of which have been to people who identify as Hispanic/Latinx. In addition, the majority of SRCH patients live in the lowest two (least healthy) quartiles on the Healthy Place Index (HPI), a key indicator being used to monitor vaccine equity. To expand vaccine access, a new vaccine clinic will open soon at the Roseland Regional Library, located at 779 Sebastopol Road. For information or appointments at the clinics, call 707-347-0553 for English and 707-336-8491 for Spanish or email appointment@scma.org.

Vaccine supply will come through the Blue Shield TPA and be supplemented with a targeted federal program of the Health Resource and Services Administration that is sending a limited supply of doses directly to Federally Qualified Health Centers to ensure equitable vaccinations for those disproportionately affected by COVID-19, including people experiencing homelessness, migrant workers, public housing residents, and patients with limited English proficiency. Santa Rosa Community Health was one of 250 clinics from across the country in the first wave of the program; an additional 700 clinics, including Alliance Medical Center have been invited to onboard to the program over the next six weeks.

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