



Peninsula Health Care District Passes Emergency COVID-19 Relief Package for San Mateo County

District will provide immediate support to local schools and non-profits.

Millbrae, Calif., (January 28, 2022) – Last night the Peninsula Health Care District (PHCD) Board of Directors unanimously voted to establish an emergency COVID-19 Relief Fund for San Mateo County.

The District will invest \$250,000 to support San Mateo County through the current Omicron surge, as District officials have been working to provide resources and expertise to school districts and nonprofits. The District has invested over \$4 million into COVID-19 relief since 2020.

“Given the continued increase in COVID-19 infection rates, the District felt it was critical that we fill in the gaps in services to support our community,” said Lawrence W. Cappel, Ph.D., Chair Peninsula Health Care District Board of Directors. “By focusing on schools, nonprofit frontline workers and their clients, we are seeking to provide local families with support, as our goal is to assist with building a healthier community.”

The approved COVID-19 Relief Package consists of the following:

1). Accessible COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

PHCD will fund youth vaccination clinics in February 2022 in partnership with the San Bruno Park School District, the Office of Supervisor Dave Pine, San Mateo County Health and Lookout Health at Belle Air School in San Bruno.

2). Rapid Test Kit Access

PHCD management is in conversation with school leadership and community organizations to provide access to rapid test kits to hard-to-reach communities within the district. The following strategies will be employed:

Through multilingual communications, PHCD will partner with local organizations to educate non-English-speaking communities about how to access free test kits and masks. Multilingual media opportunities will promote features such as *How to Access Four (4) Free At-Home Rapid Test Kits* and *High-Quality Masks, and COVID-19 Resource Sheet*.



PHCD will also sponsor bulk purchasing of rapid test kits as quality of test kit technology evolves.

3). Mitigate the Spread through Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PHCD will collaborate with schools and partner nonprofits to determine the need for and distribute PPE, including high-quality masks and hand sanitizer.

4). Town Halls: Vaccination Awareness Series

PHCD will continue to promote PHCD webinars about youth vaccination and produce additional webinars as needed. Previous webinars have included *Children & COVID-19 Vaccine: Health Care Experts Answer Questions* and *"I Don't Like Needles": How to Support Kids with Vaccine Anxiety*.

5). PHCD's Public Health Standard: "Mask, Vax & Boost"

PHCD will serve as resource for partner organizations to identify vaccination sites and promote PHCD's vaccination and mask policy as needed.

6). PHCD Website

The COVID-19 Resources page of PHCD's website will include this listed information.

From the start of the pandemic, Peninsula Health Care District has been at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. In early 2020, PHCD provided San Mateo County with a \$3 million investment to assist them with creating bed capacity throughout the county. PHCD works closely with communities that have historically not had access to enhanced wellness services and medical care, including COVID-19 vaccines, in an effort to increase the county's overall vaccination rates and wellness.

"As public health and healthcare experts, it is our duty to be on the front-lines of the fight against COVID," said Rick Navarro, MD, Director, Peninsula Health Care District. "By working closely with our community and providing them with the necessary resources, we will be able to get to a point where COVID will eventually not interfere with our day-to-day lives."

About Peninsula Health Care District: Founded in 1947, the Peninsula Health Care District serves the communities of San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo, and Foster City by supporting the unique health and wellness priorities of our Peninsula communities, and safeguarding access to health services, today and in the future. PHCD fulfills



its commitment to the community through oversight of District assets and infrastructure, planning for future health care needs, and investing taxpayer dollars in local health-focused organizations and programs.

For more information: <https://peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org/>