

Resolution Celebrating Cook County Health's Community Vaccination Program

WHEREAS, Cook County Health (CCH) has a 185 year history of caring for all residents of Cook County, regardless of ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, CCH remains at the forefront of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the most devastating public health emergency of our time; and

WHEREAS, CCH is dedicated to providing equitable, high-quality medical care, education and resources for all residents throughout the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, when the first COVID-19 vaccines became available, CCH committed to providing broad, equitable access to vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccines are safe and were developed based on decades of scientific research; and

WHEREAS, getting vaccinated remains the easiest and most effective way to protect yourself and those around you from infection; and

WHEREAS, a recent study from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that, even during the Omicron surge, a primary series of an mRNA vaccine was 79 percent effective against serious illness and death from COVID-19, and that increased to 94% effective if the individual received a booster shot; and

WHEREAS, CCH administered its first dose of COVID-19 vaccine on December 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, just weeks later, CCH was preparing to stand up its first community mass vaccination site; and

WHEREAS, in all, CCH opened six mass vaccination sites across Cook County, that could each accommodate up to 4,000 people a day; and

WHEREAS, CCH also offered vaccinations at Stroger and Provident Hospitals, its community health centers, correctional health facilities and at pop-up events; and

WHEREAS, Cook County Government, CCH, which includes the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) launched My Shot Cook County, an award-winning, omni-channel public education campaign that provides accurate, understandable information about COVID-19 and vaccination to Cook County communities, generating more than 101 million overall impressions; and

WHEREAS, tremendous efforts were made to reduce barriers to vaccination at CCH locations, including welcoming walk-ins, expanding vaccination clinic hours, promotions for essential workers, and incentives to make getting vaccinated as easy as possible; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with community-based organizations, a hyperlocal vaccine equity strategy was employed to reach individuals who remained unvaccinated and to bring information and vaccine access to them in the communities where they live and work; and

WHEREAS, the week of April 24, 2022, CCH administered its one millionth dose of COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, CCH is among the first health systems in the country to achieve this level of success in vaccinating its communities; and

WHEREAS, providing this number of vaccines has undoubtedly saved lives, prevented catastrophic illness and kept families whole during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this milestone would not be possible without the incredible hard work and dedication of CCH staff, including CCDPH, President Preckwinkle, the Board of Commissioners and our partners at Cook County Government, Governor Pritzker, the State of Illinois, the Illinois National Guard, local municipalities and officials and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, CCH and its partners remain steadfast in their commitment to continuing to provide widespread, equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines as we continue to fight this pandemic; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Cook County Health, does hereby gratefully acknowledge the entire Cook County Health team for their incredible contributions to administering more than one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine and for their ongoing work at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.