

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mayor Joe Hogsett, Dr. Caine announce first mobile vaccination clinics, one million dollars in grants to address disparities in COVID-19 response and recovery**

*Community organizations can apply for grants April 1-15*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Today, Mayor Joe Hogsett and Marion County Public Health Department director and chief medical officer Dr. Virginia Caine held an update on COVID-19 data and response in Marion County. The update focused on ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of the virus, including continuing the mask mandate and current capacity restrictions in Marion County, as well as new efforts to address racial inequities in COVID-19 response and recovery. These new programs include the first four mobile vaccination sites to reach traditionally underserved residents, as well as partnering with Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies, to award one million dollars in grants to community organizations working to address disparities in health and economic wellbeing in the county.

“Historically underserved populations have borne a disproportionate share of the health and economic consequences of the pandemic. And through programs like our Spanish-language vaccine appointment call center this weekend, or the COVID Community Ambassador program, we have tried to remove barriers for these groups to access the vaccine,” said Mayor Joe Hogsett. “We are in this together. For our city to truly thrive, it means every neighborhood must also thrive.”

In April, the Health Department will partner with local health entities to launch mobile vaccination clinics designed to provide improved vaccine accessibility for residents in traditionally underserved communities in Marion County. The first four of these mobile vaccine clinics will be held in partnership with the following organizations throughout April:

- Eastern Star Church in partnership with IU Health | **March 26 and 27**
- Light of the World Christian Church, New Era Church, Greater Shepherd Baptist Church, Providence AME Church and Witherspoon Presbyterian Church in partnership with IU health | **date TBA**
- The Consulate of Mexico in Indianapolis in partnership with Eli Lilly | **date TBA**
- Riverside Park in partnership with Eli Lilly & Flanner House | **date TBA**

“With these new efforts, it is our aim to ensure those most impacted by the COVID-19 virus have access to the lifesaving protections offered by the vaccine, as well as the community-based support and resources they may need,” said Dr. Caine. “For now, we all must continue to wear a mask, wash our hands, and watch our distance if we are to enjoy long-term economic recovery and return to the activities we love and have missed over the last year.”

Mayor Hogsett and Dr. Caine also announced a partnership with global non-profit Resolve to Save Lives to infuse one million dollars into community-based efforts to address public health disparities. Beginning April 1, community-based organizations will be invited to submit applications for projects that promote the wellness and recovery of the minority communities that have been hardest hit by the virus and its economic impacts. The average grant award is expected to be \$25,000, but mini-grants as low as \$2,500 will also be available for smaller projects. Applications will be due by April 15, with awards to be announced April 26. Applications will be reviewed by an advisory committee with equity at the forefront of the award decisions. This committee will include:

- Dr. Paul Halverson, founding dean of the IU Fairbanks School of Public Health
- Dr. Monica A. Medina, clinical associate professor, IUPUI School of Education
- John Hall, former director of the Indiana State Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Judith Thomas, deputy mayor of neighborhoods, City of Indianapolis
- Kjack William, school liaison, Perry Township Metropolitan School District

More information on this grant program, including the simple application needed to apply, will be announced next week.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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**ABOUT RESOLVE TO SAVE LIVES:**

Resolve to Save Lives is an initiative of the global health organization Vital Strategies focused on preventing 100 million deaths from heart disease and making the world safer from epidemics. It is led by Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To find out more visit: <https://www.resolve Tosavelives.org> or Twitter @ResolveTSL.