

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

November 10, 2020

Exploring Schools as COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Sites

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a significant threat to the health and safety of all residents throughout Los Angeles County. The pandemic has set a new normal that many residents find difficult to completely assimilate given the strict distancing requirements, mask wearing whenever in public, and limited social outings with loved ones. Many are looking forward to the approval of a COVID-19 vaccine with hope that it could restore some semblance of normal life.

On September 15, 2020, the Board unanimously approved a motion: Preparing for the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in Los Angeles County (Hahn), that directed the Department of Public Health to follow CDC guidance to create a COVID-19 vaccination plan. As of now, three COVID-19 vaccines are in Phase 3 clinical trials in the US with millions of doses potentially being available for limited use by the end of December. Healthcare workers, essential workers, and workers in long-term care facilities will likely be the first to receive the vaccine as they work and/or live in settings of increased risk for COVID-19 infection. Given the County’s geographic size and large population, logistical

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operations to support vaccine distribution to the general population will need to be planned well in advance, in order to not waste any time in administration of the vaccine.

The Department of Public Health has released the Interim COVID-19 Vaccination Plan (Plan) that provides information on the allocation, distribution, and administration of the vaccine. The Plan describes how vaccinating the general public against COVID-19 will be a massive task and it is important to be strategic when selecting vaccine locations when more vaccine is readily available to the public. Vaccination sites should be trustworthy spaces where residents feel comfortable. Complicating matters further, there may be some lingering fear of receiving the vaccine as the question of safety continues to be a topic of discussion nationwide, instilling doubt and distrust in many. Therefore, it is important that vaccination sites are established as safe hubs for families and children to receive their vaccine doses. As such, schools and other trusted community sites should be explored as potential sites for mass vaccination.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health to work with LACOE, school districts, city partners, and relevant community partners to explore the feasibility of partnering with schools for use as vaccination sites, and report back to the Board in 30 days.

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