DATE: June 6, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccination Rates by Census Tract

At its May 25, 2021 meeting (Item No. 10), Supervisor Chavez requested an off agenda report detailing the COVID-19 vaccination rates of each census tract in Santa Clara County and its corresponding supervisorial district. Attachment A provides a sortable spreadsheet that includes the estimated share of the 12 and older population having received at least one dose of vaccine for all census tracts as well as the primary supervisorial district and zip code in which each census tract is located. Also included for reference are the total population and the cumulative COVID-19 case and positivity rates for each census tract.

Several of the census tracts showing low vaccination rates contain, or are immediately adjacent to, one of the three large universities in Santa Clara County. This includes census tracts 5009.02 (San Jose State University), 5116.08 (Stanford University), 5052.03 (Santa Clara University), 5130.00 (Stanford), 5016.00 (adjacent to SJSU), and 5056.00 (adjacent to SCU). Based on discussions with the three universities and an analysis of vaccination data by age, the low rates in these areas are largely explained by the fact that many students have not been living on or near these campuses due to the pandemic. It is also very likely that some students who are vaccinated, and living on or near campus, are reporting their permanent home address rather than their campus address.

With the exception of 5016.00, for each of the above census tracts, the majority of the estimated population is age 18 to 24. When that age group is removed from the data, there are very few unvaccinated residents estimated in each of these five census tracts. For tract 5016.00, when the 18 to 24 population is removed, the vaccination rate for that area rises to well over 60%.

Supervisor Chavez also requested information about the extent to which local universities have been tracking their own data about student vaccination rates. County Administration has reached out to all three universities and learned what is below.

Stanford estimates they have between 6,000 and 7,000 students currently on campus. Approximately 6,000 students have attested that they have been vaccinated, and roughly 4,600 students have been verified as having completed their vaccination series. Stanford Healthcare offers a vaccine clinic on the Stanford campus that operates five days a week, including weekends.
Stanford has announced it plans to require all students, faculty, and staff to be fully vaccinated when returning to campus this fall.

As of mid-May, San Jose State University (SJSU) was not able to ask or require students to provide vaccination information. At that time, SJSU estimated 800 students were living on campus (compared to the 3,900 to 4,500 students expected on campus in the fall). They also shared that the four to five block area around campus typically houses mostly students, however, many students have not been living in those neighborhoods this year as most classes have been online. To assist with vaccination access in this area, last week, the County Health System’s mobile vaccine program set up a one-day clinic on the SJSU campus that vaccinated 96 individuals, including 61 patients age 18 to 26. As a California State University (CSU) campus, SJSU is subject to the vaccination requirements of the CSU system. In April, CSU announced that, contingent upon full FDA approval of at least one of the COVID-19 vaccines, the system intends to require faculty, students, and staff to be vaccinated to return to campus this fall.

Santa Clara University (SCU) has been partially tracking vaccination rates among its students, faculty, and staff. As of mid-May, 1400 students, faculty, and staff had self-registered as having completed their vaccination. Roughly half of these individuals are reportedly students living locally (on campus or off). SCU estimates that 800 students are currently living on campus. Last week, the County’s mobile vaccine program set up a one-day clinic on the SCU campus that vaccinated 119 individuals, including 81 patients age 18 to 26. Like the CSU system, SCU has announced they plan to require all students to be fully vaccinated by the Fall of 2021, assuming at least one of the COVID vaccines receives full FDA approval by then.

cc: Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
    James R. Williams, County Counsel
    Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board
    Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer
    Dr. Rocio Luna, Deputy County Executive
    Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Officer
    Chief Board Aides