

SHAMANN WALTON

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PRESS RELEASE ***SAN FRANCISCO EXPANDS ACCESS TO VACCINES IN HARD HIT VISITACION VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD***

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - On Wednesday morning, District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax joined community partners FACES SF, J&J Community Resource Center, the Samoan Community Development Center, and Visit Health to officially launch a newly expanded neighborhood COVID-19 vaccine site at 1099 Sunnydale Avenue in Visitacion Valley, a neighborhood hard hit by the pandemic. The 1099 Sunnydale location, and its satellite site at 1652 Sunnydale Avenue, is the City's fifth neighborhood vaccination site established as part of San Francisco's efforts to ensure highly impacted neighborhoods have equitable access to the vaccine.

"Visitacion Valley is home to a large population of essential workers and communities of color that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19," said Supervisor Shamann Walton, "With this new neighborhood vaccination site, Visitacion Valley residents can have equitable access to the vaccine as we head towards reopening San Francisco. I'd like to thank our community partners FACES SF, J&J Community Resource Center, the Samoan Community Development Center and Visit Health for working with the City to launch this site."

"The network of low-barrier neighborhood vaccine sites we are setting up along the Sunnydale corridor is critical to reaching a community that is among the hardest hit in the City and where there is a lack of access to health care facilities," said Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. "A friendly smile from a trusted community member can go a long way towards alleviating lingering fears about getting the vaccine. By working with community partners like FACES SF, J&J Community Resource Center, and the Samoan Community Development Center, we are able to ensure that these sites are convenient, comfortable and welcoming to local residents."



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"It is important for a community to be able to have accessibility for vaccines because we are a disenfranchised and marginalized community, so for us to have access to it is extremely vitally important." said Susan Murphy, the Director of Workforce Development of FACES SF.

The 1099 Sunnydale site opened with a soft launch on April 19 to Visitacion Valley residents aged 18 and older. The site will be open by appointment or by drop-in from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Wednesday. Residents can also access vaccines on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the satellite site at 1652 Sunnydale at the Sunnydale Community Wellness Center, operated in partnership with J&J Community Resource Center and Bayview Child Health Center. A third location, also on Sunnydale Avenue, will be added in the coming weeks. Residents can contact FacesSF at 415-239-8705 or at <u>kwu@facessf.org</u> to schedule an appointment.

The 1099 Sunnydale site is located near the MUNI T-Line and the 9 San Bruno bus, ensuring that it is accessible and convenient for the people it serves. Muni and Paratransit are free for anyone traveling to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments. The SFMTA is also providing additional access to taxi service for those using the Essential Trip Card. Information can be found at <u>sfmta.com/COVID</u> and <u>sfmta.com/Paratransit</u>.

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