



Sacramento County COVID-19

COLLAB



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Business Navigator, Contact Tracing and Public Health Resource Supports Launch in Sacramento County

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation and County of Sacramento Partner with Community Organizations to Address COVID-19 Impacts

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Center at Sierra Health Foundation in partnership with the County of Sacramento has launched Sacramento County COVID-19 Collaborative (Collab), a community-based model addressing county-wide impacts of the pandemic. Trained contact tracers, case investigators, resource coordinators and business navigators work closely with community members and business owners disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Concerns about the physical and economic health of county residents, including disproportionately high rates of Latinx, Black, Asian and Pacific Islander and Native American Sacramentans contracting COVID-19, led to the partnership and development of the integrated model for community supports. In order to reach impacted communities, a growing number of languages and cultures are represented by Collab partners including Spanish, Hmong, Arabic, Russian, Gagauz, Mien, Cantonese and Vietnamese.

“COVID-19 has illuminated existing inequitable conditions in our communities, such as access to quality healthcare; serving as high risk essential workers; lost wages; crowded housing conditions and mental and emotional health concerns. While we are most concerned about the lives that are being lost at alarmingly disproportionate rates in communities of color, we understand that our region’s culture, economy, and sense of community are also at stake,” said Chet P. Hewitt, president and CEO of The Center at Sierra Health Foundation. “That’s why we’re activating a community-empowerment response, which we believe is our best tool to quickly and effectively meet the multiple needs of those who have been most impacted by COVID-19.”

The Collab serves as a holistic county-wide COVID-19 response, with 10 testing sites at trusted community locations and 13 neighborhood organizations coordinating public health supports for individuals, families and small businesses. Neighborhood organizations and Sacramento County Public Health leadership support Collab community workers at

established community locations with public health staff and expertise, community connections, and oversight.

Case investigators are local community members who work with those who test positive for COVID-19 to ensure safe isolation and to identify people with whom they have been in close contact. Contact tracers work with these contacts to encourage testing or self-isolating.

Resource coordinators connect community members who have tested positive for COVID-19, working closely with contact tracers, case investigators and community organizations to ensure individuals and families have the information, access and resources to follow self-isolation and quarantine protocols. 55 individuals have gone through extensive training to serve in any of the three roles, enabling flexibility across the program.

In partnership with United Way, DoorDash, local restaurants, the Sacramento Food Bank and Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce, resource coordinators will connect those who must self-isolate with wage and meal assistance. More than \$7.3 million in Sacramento County CARES Act funding will be available to support individuals and families for rent assistance, utilities and other essential supplies and hot meal delivery.

“This collaboration with The Center at Sierra Health Foundation advances our mutual intent to slow viral spread, assist small businesses and protect essential workers, all with an eye towards cultural competency,” said Chairman of the Board and First District Supervisor Phil Serna. “It is yet another example of Sacramento County’s very deliberate efforts aimed at keeping our community safe and healthy.”

In addition to serving local families and individuals, the Collab has focused efforts to support business owners. Business Navigators provide education and support business owners’ understanding of health and safety precautions. Business Navigators act as a guide to small and minority-owned businesses, helping them navigate through the required guidelines to ensure they have the tools to operate in compliance. In its initial phase, 23 culturally connected Business Navigators have been trained to support small businesses.

The collaboration will continue to grow diverse countywide teams trusted by their communities and committed to wraparound care to address current COVID-19 impacts and the resurgence or new emergence of challenges to come. Materials such as postcards and posters in seven languages are being distributed throughout the county, including at community testing sites, to share important information about contact tracing and next steps following a COVID-19 test.

Learn more at the Sacramento County COVID-19 Collaborative website at sacramento-county-covid-19-collaborative.mykajabi.com/.

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