For Immediate Release: August 3ʳᵈ, 2021

Press Release: Helix Becomes Highest Vaccinated Zip Code in Umatilla County.

Helix Community Church and Helix Parks and Recreation joined forces to propel Helix's vaccination rate (at least one dose) to over 60%, making it the highest vaccinated zip code in Umatilla County. The two local organizations will share at least $10,000 incentive dollars for their vaccination efforts as part of the Community Rewards Program launched earlier this summer by UCo Health.

The Community Rewards Program offers incentives to local nonprofits and agencies that help the county's 13 zip codes meet the 60% milestone. Helix Community Church and Helix Parks and Recreation promoted vaccination messaging in Helix's 97835 zip code and hosted a pool party on July 24 at the Helix Park and Pool that featured live music and free vaccinations which helped the area surpass the 60% vaccination. The two organizations will split a minimum of $10,000 as a reward for helping to reach the milestone.

The Community Rewards Program launched in June intending to increase the COVID-19 vaccination rate of every zip code in Umatilla County to 60% (at least one dose) by September 1, 2021. Previous incentive plans, such as the "Take Your Shot Oregon," focused on motivating the individual. UCo Health believed that community-level incentives can have a broader impact overall. "The decision to vaccinate or not is an individual's choice," said UCo Health's Director Joseph Fiumara. "However, the impact of that choice has community-wide implications."

Current vaccination rates for all 13 zip codes in Umatilla County are available on the UCo Health website at https://tinyurl.com/ycau9hz8 and are updated every Thursday. Currently, 15 local organizations signed up for the rewards program, and all participating organizations that help individual zip codes meet or pass the 60% threshold for at least one vaccination will share in the federally-funded incentive dollars.

For more information about the Community Rewards Program or vaccination information in your area, please visit our website at ucohealth.net or contact UCo Health at 541-278-5432 or via email at health@umatillacounty.net.

Vaccination gives us hope that the pandemic will end, but in the meantime, we need to continue safety measures to keep the virus from spreading: wear a mask, physically distance from others, wash your hands, avoid gatherings, and stay home when you are sick.

COVID-19 does not target people of any certain race, ethnicity, country of origin or geographic location. Increased community spread of COVID-19 can occur anywhere in Umatilla County at any time. We are one Umatilla County and we can all do our part to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Wear your mask, wash your hands and stay home if you are sick.

We will continue to update our Umatilla County Public Health Facebook page as new information becomes available. County specific data is available on the Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard and will be updated Monday-Friday. To access the Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard, please visit: http://www.co.umatilla.or.us/health/COVID_Region9_Dashboard/. Please refer to the Oregon Health Authority and CDC COVID-19 websites for additional information.

For media inquiries please contact:

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