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PRESS RELEASE

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C.W. Williams Community Health Center and Mecklenburg Public Health Department Host COVID-19 Vaccine Event

CHARLOTTE, NC, January 26, 2021 – Only hours after sending a message to patients aged 65 and older regarding a COVID-19 vaccine event, staff at The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC) announced that all appointments were taken. The January 22nd drive-through event, held in partnership with the Mecklenburg County Public Health Department, had cars lining up well over an hour prior to the 1 pm start time. Most of the occupants were African-American.

Across the U.S., African American and Hispanic populations have suffered disproportionately high rates of COVID-19 infection and deaths. Although studies show that members of these groups are skeptical about vaccine safety, Friday’s event made it clear that many minorities in Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas are ready and willing to take the vaccine.

“There is probably no higher priority right now than making sure that as many people as possible receive the vaccine as quickly as possible. To do this, we must continue to build trust in communities of color,” said Debra Weeks, CWWCHC’s CEO and long-time advocate for underserved populations. “Community organizations such as ours are well-positioned to take leadership roles in vaccine education and advocacy, and we are committed to doing our part to help reduce transmission of the novel coronavirus,” Weeks added.

Following current guidelines from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, CWWCHC will soon offer the Moderna version of the vaccine by appointment only to persons aged 65 and older, frontline healthcare workers, and long-term care staff. CWWCHC continues to offer COVID-19 testing daily and plans to host additional drive-through vaccine events. For more information, call 866-CWW-4-YOU (866-299-4968).

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About The C. W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc.

The C. W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC) is a Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC) and 501(c)(3), non-profit organization established by the late Dr. C. W. Williams and friends in 1981 to ensure that underserved patients receive high quality healthcare. CWWCHC provides primary and preventive medical care, dental care, mental health counseling, substance use disorder counseling and treatment (MAT), comprehensive HIV/AIDS/STI testing and specialty care, PrEP, case management, women’s health services, and 340B pharmacy services for people of all ages. CWWCHC also is part of a nationwide network of locally-run Community Health Centers that serve more than 28 million people nationwide and 550,000 people in North Carolina. Community Health Centers are on the front lines of national public health challenges – whether caring for veterans and medically underserved populations, providing opioid treatment, or responding to natural disasters and epidemics, such as COVID-19. CWWCHC and many other North Carolina Community Health Centers address not just physical and behavioral health needs, but the roots of many health issues (aka social determinants of health), including access to food, housing, transportation, and other factors that affect health and wellness.



Cars line up during the January 22, 2021 COVID-19 vaccine event hosted by CWWCHC and Mecklenburg County Public Health Department