



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Mobile Vaccination Clinic Comes to York County

York, PA – In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Latino Connection, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, York County Food Bank, Highmark Blue Shield, and Penn State Health, Pennsylvania’s COVID-19 Mobile Response Unit made its first York County stop on Monday, May 3 at the York County Food Bank where it administered the Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations to nearly 300 individuals within the community.

“What started as a first-of-its-kind COVID-19 mobile testing and education initiative has shifted into overdrive with the launch of the COVID-19 vaccination tour,” George Fernandez, Founder and CEO of Latino Connection said. “With more than 120 vaccination stops and 100 additional educational events on the agenda, these important resources will be accessible to people in nearly every region across Pennsylvania. We are doing what we know needs to be done, with the resources we have to win the war on COVID-19.”

Latino Connection’s mobile unit called CATE (Community-Accessible Testing & Education), which was used in fall 2020 for a mobile COVID-19 testing tour, is now equipped to administer vaccinations through approved medical professionals who will be on-site at each event. This is the first dedicated vaccine mobile clinic in the state of Pennsylvania.

“I want to thank Latino Connection, Secretary of Health Alison Beam and everyone involved, this mobile unit is literally saving lives, we are so pleased to continue to support this effort,” said Kathleen McKenzie, vice president of Community Affairs for Highmark Blue Shield. “While vaccination rates are rising, there is still a huge need for this service and with each event, we are making communities safer for the people of Pennsylvania.”

The CATE mobile unit will return to the greater York area on Saturday May 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at CASA located at 225 E. Princess Street, York, PA 17403 and can also be visited on Monday, May 10 in Gettysburg at South Central Community Action located at 153 N. Stratton Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those interested in receiving a vaccination from CATE can learn more at www.CATEmobileunit.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CATEmobileunit. Services are available on a first come, first serve basis. Pre-registration is required and can be completed on the website. Social distancing and masking guidelines will be followed at all times.

“Ease of access to things that meet our basic human needs is critical for comfort and hope,” said Joe Arthur, executive director of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. “The Food Bank and its network of local partners distributed more than 67 million meals throughout the COVID outbreak by delivering food assistance at the neighborhood level. The community-building missions of partners like the York County Food Bank, Lancaster

Community Action Partnership and the South Central Community Action Agency make them a natural fit to host vaccine clinics at their well-equipped sites.”

“The York County Food Bank is pleased to partner with Latino Connection to bring the life-saving vaccination to our location in East York,” adds Jennifer Brillhart, CEO of York County Food Bank. “We know that thousands of individuals and families rely on us to help with their food insecurity needs and our we are pleased that we can now meet their health needs as well via this valuable resource.”

For more information about COVID-19 vaccinations near you, visit the Department of Health’s website, www.health.pa.gov.

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About Latino Connection: Founded by George Fernandez in 2014, Latino Connection offers health and wellness programming in low-income communities, which primarily are made up of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). The organization’s vast array of programs are focused on reaching women and families who are low income, uninsured, and at risk of health issues that are often the product of lack of resources, education, and technology. Latino Connection’s unparalleled success comes from its resilient and deeply committed team that shares an unwavering vision for helping underserved, non-white communities. Learn more about this organization and its mission at www.latinconnection.org.

About the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank: The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reduce hunger in 27 counties across Pennsylvania. By working with more than 1,000 local agencies and partner programs, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank serves more than 200,000 people in need every month. For more information on the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and its mission to reduce hunger in Pennsylvania, visit www.centralpafoodbank.org or call 717-564-1700.

About the York County Food Bank: The mission of the York County Food Bank is to end hunger in York County by working with our partner agencies to increase the quantity of—and dignified access to—high quality, nutritious food for everyone in need. The Food Bank serves as a central hub that collects and redistributes food to over 125 food distribution partners and programs, including 501 C-3 nonprofit groups, shelters, churches, senior centers, schools and various community centers. In response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Bank distributed the equivalent of 5.4 million meals in 2020. For more information, visit us at www.yorkfoodbank.org or call us at 717-846-6435.