

RESOLUTION NO..

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION DECLARING HEALTH MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, as of September 1, 20221, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in over 49,000 cases and 595 deaths in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID–19 has had a devastating impact on our health and safety, our regional economy, our communities of color, the educational development of our children, and many other aspects of our lives; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 vaccines have met the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality and have been proven to be safe and effective; and

WHEREAS, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has received full FDA approval and been proven to be highly effective in preventing serious disease, hospitalization and death from COVID-19 and that its benefits outweigh its risks; and

WHEREAS, the COVID 19 vaccine is available to everyone in San Mateo County, twelve years of age and older, at no cost, regardless of income, and is administered by health professionals, like nurses and doctors; and

WHEREAS, health misinformation has caused widespread confusion among the public and, both locally and nationally, has prompted eligible people to decline COVID-19 vaccines; reject public health measures, such as masking and physical distancing; and use unproven treatments for COVID-19 infections; and

WHEREAS, on July 15th, 2021, the United States Surgeon General issued his first advisory describing the "urgent threat" posed by the rise of false information around COVID-19 — one that continues to put "lives at risk" and prolong the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, recent surges in infections and hospitalization from COVID-19 have highlighted the importance of clear and unequivocal communications from public officials that vaccines are the best protection against severe illness and hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, health misinformation has significantly undermined public health efforts and the unmitigated proliferation of health misinformation has created a culture of mistrust and has prolonged the COVID-19 pandemic, endangering the health and safety of individuals in San Mateo County, in the State, and throughout the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND DECLARED by the Board of Supervisors that health misinformation is a public health crisis and that the County of San Mateo redouble its commitment to combating health misinformation and curbing the spread of falsehoods that threaten the health and safety of our residents.

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