



## Preparing Pop Up Vaccine Clinics for Protestors

Updated 5/25/2021

*Anti-vaccine groups showing up at Vaccination clinics to intimidate those who are getting vaccinated and those working the clinic. They may bring signs, mega phones, and flyers with their beliefs to pass out. They will engage people walking into the clinic and try to instill fear and shame in their participation in the vaccination effort. The following are recommendations for those planning clinics*

### Keep in Mind

- People have a right to protest. Protestors can be cited or arrested for making threats, trespassing, blocking traffic, recording people participating in a health clinic
- Protesters are likely to bring megaphones, signs and handouts
- Protesters will say things that are distressing, false, manipulative, perplexing, confusing, and conspiratorial. They will criticize those staffing the clinic directly
- Protesters want attention, confrontation, disruption, and chaos. We need to stay calm, maintain order, protect our community, and minimize the disruption to the clinic and the vaccination process

### Things to do prior to the Vaccine Clinic

- Notify law enforcement with jurisdiction of the location of the vaccine clinic. Obtain a phone number to call if you are in need in non-emergency support (call 911 if there is an emergency)
- If possible, design the clinic so that if people need to wait in line that they do so away from public
- Have a sound system ready to go in case protestors arrive
- Host a prep meeting with all your staff and partners to share communications plan and those assigned to monitor the protestors, etc.
- Share cell phone numbers of key staffers involved with monitoring and coordinating a response
- Have a communication plan in place, everyone should know who the emergency contact is if protestors arrive
- Post large signs that state the following:

#### **Medical Vaccine Clinic**

No Photography or Access Allowed without Permission  
CA Health & Safety Code 1280.15

- Make sure signs are visible to potential protesters (this makes it illegal for them to take photos or video participants)
- Have a protocol for if/when protesters trespass onto your property (engage, notify them they are trespassing and ask them to leave, call 911, remain with them until law enforcement arrives).

### **During the Clinic, once protesters arrive**

- Assign someone to monitor outside and notify the emergency contact if necessary
- Notify the vaccination team that protesters have arrived
- Have someone engage the protesters, to distract them from speaking with clinic attendees
- Let them know that if they enter the property, block the driveway, or film those at the health clinic that you will call law enforcement
- Take photos and video of the protesters in case things escalate and we need to identify them
- Set up the sound system or a vehicle with music to drown out the protesters
- If possible, have clinic attendees with SUVs park to block protester's visual access to the clinic
- Place a garbage can on your property near the protesters for clinic attendees to throw away the handouts they may receive from protesters
- Call law enforcement if the protesters make threats, block entry-ways, trespass, film clinic attendees, or break any other laws.
- Have staff check in with those in line to make sure they are ok - be sensitive to attendees that may be anxious or fearful

### **After the Clinic**

- Notify law enforcement that the clinic has ended
- Take notes of any incidents.
- Provide a report with lessons learned to the South County Team