



COUNTY OF MONTEREY
CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



A young client at one of the Health Department’s clinics. Clinic workers say fear is keeping many from seeking health care.

County Notes

- > Our friends at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office have put together [a list of events for this coming Memorial Day weekend](#). Check it out!

Health Department Debuts ‘All Are Welcome’ Signs

The Health Department is continuing to see what could be considered an ‘unhealthy’ fallout related to a change in our federal government’s stance and view of immigration.

That fallout? Higher than usual ‘no-show’ appointment rates and cancellations at county clinics, an unwillingness to schedule appointments and a higher than usual request for termination of public benefits.

That is concerning to a department which focuses on keeping the entire county community healthy.

In February of this year, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution noting that Monterey County is a county welcoming to all individuals, but that alone may not be enough to encourage people to seek out health care services that are available.

To encourage those who are hesitant or afraid, the Health Department is putting the word out – and in eight languages!

The Department created a poster that is going up in all Health Department offices and clinics and can be seen in other locations as well. It says ‘All are welcome here. We proudly serve immigrants, refugees and all who live in Monterey County.’ The message is repeated in Spanish, Arabic, Tagalog, Ilocano, Vietnamese, Korean, Italian and English. Those languages were chosen because they are the ones most commonly seen in Monterey County.

Red-colored cards have also been created to hand out to clients who have legal or advocacy concerns.

Although the Health Department cannot give legal advice, the “red cards” provide basic information to residents about their rights and what to do in case they are questioned about their status. The cards include contact numbers for local organizations offering free help with immigration issues.

Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez says the effort not only helps residents but supports staff as well.

“This uncertainty impacts many of us either because of the clients we serve or because of the mixed residency statuses in our own families,” Jimenez told Health Department staff in a recent email.

“Thank you for paying attention to these complex issues during the current period of ambiguity.”



NMC Farmers' Market Kick Off

A delicious weekly event has relaunched for the season – the Wednesday Certified Farmers' Market at Natividad Medical Center.



The market kicked off for the season Wednesday, May 17th and will run through October each Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

You'll find vendors along the airy walkway in front of the outpatient services entrance offering fruits and vegetables, baked goods, tortillas and tasty lunch options.

It's all part of the hospital's commitment to promote wellness and healthy eating and it's a great way for people of all walks of life and income levels to eat better. The market accepts EBT Food Stamp, WIC benefits and California Department of

Food and Agriculture (CDFA) senior nutrition coupons which are designed to let low income seniors shop for fresh fruits and vegetables at certified farmers' markets.

Be sure to make the Natividad Medical Center Farmers' Market your Wednesday lunchtime destination. There are even healthy recipes for produce on the [NMC website](#) so you can whip up some great meals with your market finds.



Health Department Goodie Sale Supports Relay

Too bad the folks at the Health Department had to 'Eat for a Cause' for a Relay for Life fundraiser last week.



Team Stomp Out Cancer with their recycled Relay for Life T shirt bags.

Health Department staffers from the WIC Program call themselves Team Stomp Out Cancer and they put together a pretty fun event. They held an 'Eat for a Cause' goodie sale on May 11th and everyone got a chance to 'help.'

There was no shortage of selections like biscotti, brownies, cookies, fruit tarts, key lime pie. And because it's the Health Department, there were healthier but just as fun options like banana bread, zucchini chocolate muffins and corn onion cheese muffins.

Watching your carbs? There were adorable recycled Relay T-shirt bags for sale and gift baskets to win.

Congratulations to this team, which raised more than \$350 for Relay!