



MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION NO. 1

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For Immediate Release

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Monmouth County Regional Health Commission No.1 Awarded Grant to Address COVID Disparities

The Monmouth County Regional Health Commission No. 1 (MCRHC) received a NJ Department of Health grant to launch outreach campaigns and expand access to COVID-19 testing for underserved and vulnerable communities in 19 Monmouth County municipalities (MCRHC and Manalapan Twp.)

The Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity grant will fund two full time Vulnerable Populations Outreach Coordinator positions and four part-time positions. The team of public health professionals including a Nurse and a Health Officer aims to assess pockets in communities that have little access to testing, getting a vaccine, and poor ability to isolate or quarantine effectively, or require assistance in locating or registering for COVID-19 vaccinations.

The first stage of the grant is to conduct assessments within each municipality which help to identify populations in need of services. The second stage is to use the information and help create a strategic plan to prevent, test for, contain and mitigate COVID-19 within these populations. The ultimate goal is to reduce COVID-19 disparities and assist communities in need by providing access to testing and vaccine distribution.

Health Officer, David Henry, reflected that “this is an amazing opportunity to address health disparities while tackling the pandemic.” Henry points out that “those above the age of 65 have been particularly hard hit by COVID-19, but we also know that Black and Latino older adult populations are especially high risk.”

The team will work to identify the needs among at-risk residents and search for local solutions such as housing, food banks, insurance coverage, and mental health services to allow them to isolate or quarantine effectively.

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The Monmouth County Regional Health Commission provides shared public health services to eighteen (18) towns: Allenhurst, Brielle, Deal, Fair Haven, Interlaken, Little Silver, Loch Arbour, Middletown, Monmouth Beach, Ocean Township, Rumson, Sea Bright, Sea Girt, Shrewsbury Borough, Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights, Tinton Falls, and West Long Branch.