

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Health Plan of Washington and Sea Mar Host Virtual Conversation on COVID-19 Vaccines

Community healthcare providers and experts will share information and resources on the COVID-19 vaccines in both English and Spanish

SEATTLE – March 24, 2021 – [Community Health Plan of Washington \(CHPW\)](#), Washington's local not-for-profit Medicaid (Apple Health) and Medicare managed health plan, and [Sea Mar Community Health Centers](#) are hosting a free virtual event providing guidance and resources on the COVID-19 vaccines to Washingtonians in both English and Spanish on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 6:30 and 7 PM PT. Dr. Paul Sherman, Chief Medical Officer of CHPW, and Dr. Julian Perez of Sea Mar will answer questions and participate in the panel discussion moderated by Sea Mar's Jesus Soto, community navigator at Sea Mar.

By bringing together experts to discuss and answer questions from the community, CHPW and Sea Mar hope to help people navigate misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccines. A recently published [study](#) found fewer people would “definitely” take the COVID-19 vaccine than is likely required for herd immunity, partially due to misinformation. In fact, concerns about the vaccines were highest among [Hispanic and Black communities](#), who have also been disproportionately affected by the virus and deaths caused by COVID-19.

“We want to be a resource for people to get straight information about the stories and rumors they are hearing,” said Dr. Paul Sherman, Chief Medical Officer at Community Health Plan of Washington. “While the COVID-19 vaccines are saving lives and will help us end this pandemic, we also need to understand there is longstanding mistrust in medicine among certain communities and widespread misinformation on the vaccines. Through this webinar, we hope to provide Washingtonians with answers and information to help them make the best informed decisions for them and their families.”

“We are in a race to vaccinate the world as fast as possible to contain the spread. We all have a job to do,” said Dr. Julian Perez, a medical provider at Sea Mar. “At the start of the pandemic, we felt that this virus was indiscriminate in its selection of who to infect and who to kill. It’s just not true. Struggling communities, people under constant toxic stress, the economically poor, undocumented households all suffer disproportionately. It is critical we bring the opportunity to share information about the vaccines to all communities we serve, in their spoken languages to help remove barriers to health care.”

CHPW and Sea Mar’s virtual event is free and open to the general public. The organizations will be hosting two separate 30-minute webinar sessions; one in English and one in Spanish on March 31. In each session, the panel of local experts will be answering community questions about the

vaccines. Details below:

WHAT: **CHPW Conversations: COVID Myth Busting**

WHEN: Wednesday, March 31, 2021
6:30 – 7 PM PT – English
7 – 7:30 PM PT – Spanish

WHERE: Virtual panel on Zoom:
[Zoom Attendee Link](#)
RVSP and post questions publicly or privately on Facebook:
English session: [CHPW Conversations Facebook Event Page Session 1](#)
Spanish session: [Conversaciones de CHPW Facebook sesión de evento 2](#)

WHO: Moderator: Jesus Soto, Community Navigator, Sea Mar
Dr. Paul Sherman, Chief Medical Officer, CHPW
Dr. Julian Perez, Sea Mar

WHY: Washington State is currently distributing the COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare workers and the most vulnerable people in our community. Soon, other community members will have access to the vaccine, but many still have unanswered questions. CHPW is hosting this expert panel to provide answers to these questions as well as resources and other helpful information about the vaccines in both English and Spanish. A translator will be translating the experts' answers to Spanish during the webinar. For more information about the COVID-19 vaccines, visit [CHPW](#) and [Sea Mar](#)'s resource centers.

About CHPW

Founded in 1992 by a network of community and migrant health centers (CHCs) in Washington State, Community Health Plan of Washington is a community-governed, not-for-profit health plan formed to help coordinate care and advocate for people who were not being served by traditional insurance companies. The mission of CHPW is to deliver accessible managed care services that meet the needs and improve the health of Washington communities and to make managed care participation beneficial for community-responsive providers. CHPW serves approximately 250,000 members through Medicaid (income-based program called Apple Health in WA) and Medicare (age and disability-based program) across the State. CHPW connects members to various physical, behavioral and social support services, and reinvests its profit back into the CHCs to help them deliver better care to all people. CHPW also seeks to identify and address health disparities and inequities, while coordinating services within a broader population health framework. Its parent, Community Health Network of Washington, serves nearly one million individuals across Washington through its CHC network sites. To learn more, visit chpw.org or connect on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#).



About Sea Mar

Sea Mar Community Health Centers is a community-based organization committed to providing quality, comprehensive health, human, housing, educational and cultural services to diverse communities, specializing in service to Latinos. Sea Mar provides affordable and quality care for communities at 34 medical clinics, 24 dental clinics, 30 behavioral health clinics and several human and educational services across 13 counties throughout Washington state. Sea Mar continuously strives to engage, strengthen and respond to the needs of its communities. By doing so, Sea Mar has evolved into more than a health center; it has become an essential resource for patients and families.

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Contact:

RH Strategic for Community Health Plan of Washington
Danielle Ruckert
(206) 607-1311
druckert@rhstrategic.com