



# THE CITY OF MONTEREY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CITY OF MONTEREY RECOGNIZES MONTEREY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, MONTAGE HEALTH, AND MONTEREY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THEIR REGIONAL LEADERSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Monterey, CA. – At the May 16, 2023 City Council meeting, Monterey City Council presented proclamations to the Monterey County Health Department, Montage Health, and the Monterey County Department of Emergency Management for their leadership in the region in protecting the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

City Manager Hans Uslar explained, “We are proud to acknowledge and recognize the exhaustive work by these three leading agencies during an unprecedented time. A time full of unknowns, stress and anxiety from illness and death of loved ones, loss of jobs, homes, and school closures, and overall loss of security and quality of life. Their dedication on behalf of the residents of Monterey County during the COVID-19 pandemic will forever be etched in our community memories, and we are grateful in knowing, with their help, we are stronger, more resilient, and wiser from the long-term ordeal that is finally over.”

The Monterey County Health Department, under the leadership of Health Services Director Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, MPH, Health Officer, and Bureau Chief Edward Moreno, M.D., responded to cruise ship concerns early in the pandemic, implemented critical health orders, monitored COVID-19 activity, coordinated the implementation of testing sites and vaccine clinics, and worked to reduce infections and the loss of life during the global pandemic. The Monterey County Health

*(more)*



Department also partnered with the Monterey Fire Department to offer vaccine clinics to vulnerable populations and the community at large.

Montage Health, under the leadership of President/CEO Steven Packer, M.D., and Medical Director of Infection Prevention Martha Blum, M.D., provided guidance and medical advice to residents of the Monterey Peninsula on COVID-19 prevention, treatment, vaccinations, and testing, prepared for and provided reassurance to the community about emergency department and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) surge capacity for the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP).

The Monterey County Department of Emergency Management (formerly Office of Emergency Services) also provided sound leadership during the local emergency. Under the leadership of former County Administrative Officer Charles McKee, Assistant County Administrative Officer Nick Chiulos, and now Emergency Management Director Kelsey Scanlon, the Department of Emergency Management served as lead agency coordinating efforts with the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), led the Operational Area (OA) coordination meetings, and assisted the City of Monterey to secure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for our Fire, Police, Public Works, and Emergency Services personnel, portable restrooms at El Estero Park, and handwashing stations at various locations throughout the community.

[Proclamation recognizing Monterey County Health Department](#)

[Proclamation recognizing Montage Health](#)

[Proclamation recognizing Monterey County Department of Emergency Management](#)

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