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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## *County's Two Largest Private Healthcare Providers to Offer Vaccine Answers*

**Contra Costa County, June 10, 2021...** As COVID-19 vaccination rates slow down, the county's two largest private healthcare providers, John Muir Health and Kaiser Permanente, teamed up on a campaign to help the community find answers to their concerns about the vaccine.

"Getting vaccinated is an important personal decision, and Kaiser Permanente is providing clear facts about the vaccine so that people can make the best possible choice for themselves and their loved ones," said Chris Boyd, Kaiser Permanente's senior vice president and area manager for the Diablo service area. "This campaign provides facts about the vaccine from our physician experts to help people understand how choosing vaccination can help bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic."

The "Get Answers" campaign, launched today by Kaiser Permanente and John Muir Health provides free information about the COVID-19 vaccines directly from medical experts. The website, [www.GetAnswersContraCosta.org](http://www.GetAnswersContraCosta.org), includes answers to the most common vaccine questions and issues as well as an online portal where questions can be submitted and answered. Social media posts will be shared to help inform the public.

About 67% of Contra Costa County residents 12 and older have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. According to county health department data, about 70% of White residents and 85% of Asian residents are now fully vaccinated. Black residents and residents of other ethnicities lag behind in vaccination rates.

"We're working together to do all we can to make it as easy as possible for people to get the answers they need as they consider vaccination. This is a very personal decision and one that both organizations believe is an important one for the health of our community. By working together with Kaiser Permanente, we are showing our community the importance of coming

together for the common good,” said Dr. Nick Mickas, interim vice president of Clinical Affairs for John Muir Health.

Both health care providers are making their physicians available through a host of forums to provide information about the vaccine. In addition to the website and online Question and Answer portal, John Muir Health and Kaiser Permanente doctors will work with local employers and community and service groups.

The [GetAnswersContraCosta.org](http://GetAnswersContraCosta.org) website is open to anyone, regardless of where they get their medical care, and will be updated daily. In addition to posting their own questions, people can view previously answered questions and video testimonials from John Muir Health and Kaiser Permanente physicians.

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#### **About John Muir Health**

**John Muir Health** is a nationally recognized, not-for-profit health care organization east of San Francisco serving patients in Contra Costa, eastern Alameda and southern Solano Counties. It includes a network of more than 1,000 primary care and specialty physicians, 6,000 employees, medical centers in Concord and Walnut Creek, including Contra Costa County’s only trauma center, and a Behavioral Health Center. John Muir Health also has partnerships with UCSF Health, Tenet Healthcare/San Ramon Regional Medical Center and Stanford Children’s Health. The health system offers a full-range of medical services, including primary care, outpatient and imaging services, and is widely recognized as a leader in many specialties – neurosciences, orthopedic, cancer, cardiovascular, trauma, emergency, pediatrics and high-risk obstetrics care.

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#### **About Kaiser Permanente**

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America’s leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve 12.5 million members in 8 states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists, and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery, and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education, and the support of community health.