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CHAMBER URGES BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO MAKE 'TIME TO VACCINATE'

New campaign asks businesses to grant time and flexibility to employees getting COVID vaccine

SAN DIEGO (March 17, 2021) – Encouraging news about wider vaccine availability in the coming months is a bright light at the end of the COVID pandemic tunnel. San Diego’s recovery from the pandemic depends on as many people getting the vaccine as soon as they are able. The business community plays an important role in making that happen. That’s why the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce is launching “[Time To Vaccinate](#).” This new education and awareness program offers resources and information employers can use to encourage their workforce to get vaccinated when they are able.

“A key part of getting our region open and back in business safely is ensuring our workers get the vaccine when it’s their turn,” said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. “By joining the Time To Vaccinate program and pledging to provide time and flexibility for employees to receive vaccines, we are all working together to support our region’s recovery.”

All employers in San Diego are encouraged to join Time To Vaccinate. By publicly stating a company’s commitment to supporting vaccines for employees, businesses show they are ready and willing to do their part to help end the pandemic.

“Everyone getting vaccinated when it’s their turn is the best way to put San Diego County on a path to economic recovery,” said Nathan Fletcher, Chair of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. “I appreciate the businesses that are making the commitment to ensure their employees have the time off of work or are providing other supportive measures to get the vaccine. Thank you San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce for your partnership in prioritizing that workers are supported by being given time to vaccinate.”

The program offers a host of resources employers can use to design a program that fits their needs. Whether providing set time off for vaccines or incentives and rewards, there are a variety of ways companies can get involved. The program also offers helpful educational tools on vaccine eligibility, what to expect after vaccination, and legal considerations.

“San Diego getting back to work depends on all of us working together to overcome the pandemic,” said San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria. “The Chamber and our business community are stepping up in a big way

to help make a difference in this fight and the vaccine process by ensuring San Diego's workforce knows they have the support to get their vaccines when they're eligible."

Time To Vaccinate has earned early support from a variety of businesses and organizations including the San Diego Padres, Starbucks, San Diego Tourism Authority, NAIOP, Asian Business Association of San Diego, Nuffer, Smith, Tucker Public Relations, San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and San Diego Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors.

Those interested in joining Time To Vaccinate can learn more and sign-up on the Chamber's website at sdchamber.org/timetovaccinate.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing more than 2,000 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to make the San Diego region the best place to live and work. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.

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