



For Immediate Release  
September 1, 2022

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**Carlos Vaquerano, CEO of Clínica Romero, Responds to Vaccine Incident**

“For 39 years our mission and work has been guided by the exemplary life’s work of Monseñor Oscar A. Romero to provide quality, affordable, healthcare services to underserved communities. We continue to provide quality care by demonstrating compassion and defending the most vulnerable of our community every day. Health Care is a Human Right.

When Pfizer’s first vaccine was distributed, it required dilution. Then they changed course and said dilution was not required. A staff member did not follow the new instructions resulting in a less potent vaccine. We took immediate action. The employee was placed on leave while we investigated and was later terminated. We also immediately notified the California State Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Department of Health, the CDC and the Pfizer Company and followed their corrective steps and recommendations meticulously.

Pfizer told us to reissue the vaccine to those who wanted it. We also notified our patients who expressed gratitude for our swift actions. Furthermore, we have not been notified by any patients claiming that they were adversely affected by the less potent vaccine. Clínica Romero is committed to keeping our community safe, healthy, and informed, and we sincerely apologize for this error.

Despite this incident caused by a single employee, we achieved great milestones during the pandemic by ensuring accessible, culturally competent, and comprehensive COVID-19 services, education and outreach. We also partnered with organizations and institutions across Los Angeles County, the Antelope Valley to South Los Angeles and locally to provide nearly 10,000 COVID-19 tests, more than 10,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits as well 100,000 pounds of food for families financially affected by COVID.

We are inspired daily by Monseñor Romero’s message of love, compassion, and social justice to improve the well-being and health of our communities. We do not take lightly the trust the patients place in us, and we continue to strive for excellence.

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