

For Immediate Release: December 9, 2019

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BREAKING:

Doctors Offering Life-Saving Flu Clinic Turned Away at Detention Facility Gates

Medical experts' effort to guard against epidemic and deaths continue to be ignored and stonewalled by the Trump administration.

San Ysidro, San Diego, CA — Today, a group of licensed physicians presented themselves with vaccinations at the Chula Vista Border Patrol Station in San Ysidro to offer free flu clinic services to detained migrants. Despite the deaths of several children and the urgency of this **potential public health crisis**, the physicians' offer of recommended and potentially life-saving preventative care were denied at the gates.

Earlier this month, the doctors leading this effort in San Ysidro also proposed a [free pilot flu clinic](#) for detained migrants — a proposal that was also ignored by the Trump administration.

With peak flu season imminent, the U.S. detaining a [record number of children](#), and new evidence that immigration officials lied about the horrifying, flu-related death of 16-year-old [Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez](#), it is more important than ever that people in detention facilities are allowed access to potentially life-saving flu clinic services.

Now these healthcare providers —supported by [Doctors for Camp Closures](#) (D4CC), [Families Belong Together](#) (FBT), and [Never Again Action](#), as well as advocates, fellow physicians, and local community members— **will continue rallying through the week to demand a meeting** with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. They hope to discuss the urgent need for immigration officials to end their policy of denying detained migrants access to routine flu vaccinations.

“This is intentional cruelty. People are needlessly suffering and dying. You can't lock people up in inhumane conditions, watch them get sick, and then refuse them access to medical care,” said **Marie DeLuca MD**. “Flu deaths are preventable and large scale vaccination is not unprecedented. Our government has undertaken similar efforts in the past and has the resources to do so now. This is about a complete disregard for human life, government accountability and a failure of our government to protect not only the people held in detention, but all people within our borders.”

Flu infections were responsible for at least three child deaths in U.S. immigration custody during the 2018 flu season, which is nine times the mortality incidence of the general pediatric population.

“This has become a horrific pattern: our immigration system is killing innocent children and the Trump administration doesn't seem to care,” said **Jess Morales Rocketto, Chair of Families Belong Together**.

"This administration's cruel immigration agenda is intentionally barring life-saving medical care from children by refusing to provide vaccines during flu season. Earlier this year, as immigration authorities sat by, 16-year-old Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez died from the flu on the floor of his concrete jail cell. This callous disregard for children and families does not reflect who we are as a nation. We need action immediately to get children the life-saving care they need to make sure that no more kids die in cages."

Providing routine vaccinations is a [Center for Disease Control](#) recommended first step in preventing the spread of influenza and potential epidemics. It is a cost-effective, simple strategy for correcting a pattern of medical neglect and abuse that has been documented in immigration detention across the country.

"We are outraged by the overcrowded and unconscionable conditions of CBP concentration camps and detention centers around the country," **said Jamie Goodman, a spokesperson for Never Again Action LA.** "We recognize these conditions from what many of our ancestors narrowly escaped. Genocide doesn't start with death camps, it starts with what CBP concentration camps look like right now. Never again is now."

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Doctors for Camp Closures Doctors for Camp Closure (D4CC) is a non-partisan organization made up of over 2,000 physicians and healthcare professionals from all specialties who oppose the inhumane detention of migrants and refugees who are attempting to enter the United States of America. D4CC recognizes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that every person, regardless of immigration status, has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and of their family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care, and necessary social services.

The Families Belong Together coalition includes nearly 250 different groups comprising tens of thousands of Americans from all backgrounds who have joined together to fight the Trump Administration's cruel family separation and anti-immigrant agenda. Led by the National Domestic Workers Alliance, MoveOn, the ACLU, FWD.us and The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the Families Belong Together coalition organized the National Day of Action that saw hundreds of thousands of people protest the family separation policy and other inhumane immigration policies at more than 780 events in all 50 states. The coalition is at the forefront of the fight to permanently end family separation and incarceration, immediately reunite all families who remain torn apart, reverse the Trump administration's zero-humanity policy that created this crisis, and hold accountable anyone who has profited politically or financially from the suffering of these families.

Never Again Action is a mass mobilization of Jews who are organizing to shut down ICE and hold the political establishment accountable for enabling both the deportation machine that has separated immigrant families across the U.S. for decades and the current crisis at the border. We come together as a group of differently affiliated Jewish organizers, recognizing that we have seen this groundwork laid

before. We understand it to be our community's obligation to stand up when we see history repeat itself and to declare that Never Again means Never Again for anybody.