



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Del Puerto Health Center to Expand Telehealth Services

(Patterson, CA) — Del Puerto Health Center, a part of Del Puerto Health Care District, announced today it will expand telehealth practices to include live video visits and e-consultations which are key tools in providing safe access and continuity of care for patients at home.

The Health Center received a \$100,000 grant from Health Net, California's largest Medi-Cal managed care plan, and the District plans to use the funds to purchase hardware, provide training/technical assistance, and engage a Telehealth Coordinator.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Del Puerto has provided phone consultations for existing patients and now will be able to expand to live video. Telehealth minimizes disruption to the health care system, and protects providers and patients at a time when social distancing is critical.

"Telehealth allows us to connect with our patients in their home, evaluate signs and symptoms of COVID-19, direct testing, treatment, and care, educate, and triage those who need to go to the hospital, said CEO Karin Hennings. "Telehealth allows our patients to see and speak with their healthcare provider, which will also assist to decrease anxiety in this difficult time."

Health Net awarded a total of \$13.4 million to 138 grantees who span California from the rural north to the urban south, and include independent provider practices, rural health centers, community clinics, Indian health centers and more—many of whom face increased financial strain and challenges amid the ongoing pandemic.

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Del Puerto Health Care District has been serving the community since 1946. The Del Puerto Health Care District Board has positioned the District to begin moving forward, ensuring that all aspects of the health continuum are considered for the communities of west Stanislaus County. We provide healthcare to the communities of Patterson, Westly, Grayson, Crows Landing and the surrounding rural areas. The District provides services through Patterson District Ambulance and the Del Puerto Health Center. More information is available at <https://www.dphealth.org>.