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KENT COUNTY NEGOTIATES NEW TERMS FOR DEVOS PLACE VACCINE CLINIC

CAA and SMG make facility available “rent free,” charge only actual operational costs

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (February 12, 2021) – Kent County, the Grand Rapids-Kent County Convention/Arena Authority (CAA) and SMG/ASM Global have reached agreement on new contract terms for use of the DeVos Place Convention Center as a large-scale vaccination clinic.

Under the revised agreement, the building owner – the CAA – and SMG/ASM Global, the company that is contracted to provide venue management services, will make the convention center available rent-free, and will charge the vaccine consortium only for actual costs to operate the facility. Those operational costs will include utilities, janitorial and maintenance services, security and EMS services. The charges will only be incurred to the extent services are requested or used in the clinic’s operations.

“We are very pleased with the outcome of our latest discussions with the CAA and SMG regarding the vaccination clinic at DeVos Place,” said Kent County Administrator, Wayman Britt. “All parties involved share the goal of operating the most efficient, safe and effective large-scale vaccination clinic in our region. We also share a commitment to be responsible stewards of public dollars and to strengthen the community’s trust.”

Britt points out that, when the parties entered into the initial 1-month agreement in January, it was impossible to forecast exact costs of the new operation.

“Our objective at that time was to get a temporary agreement in place so we could open the clinic and get shots in arms,” he said. “After our first 15 days of operation, we are better able to assess actual space and operational needs as well as hard costs associated with using the convention center for this unprecedented purpose.”

Kent County partnered with Spectrum Health and Mercy Health Saint Mary’s to open this regional vaccination hub – called the West Michigan Vaccine Clinic – on January 25, 2021. As larger quantities of vaccine become available and the clinic is operating at full capacity, the partners anticipate that they will be able to vaccinate 140,000 Kent County residents per week.

Terms of the amended contract will be retroactive to January 18, 2021 and will continue until March 31, 2021. After that, the parties will have the option to renew the agreement on a month-to-month basis.

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While the new contract will include a fixed rate sheet for janitorial and other services, thereby providing some cost predictability to Kent County and its consortium partners, availability of the vaccine will drive hours of operation and will be a major factor in determining the actual cost of operating the clinic. The consortium partners will have the right to audit the cost analysis and charges rendered by SMG/ASM.

Kent County, Spectrum Health, Mercy Health Saint Mary's, and our Vaccinate West Michigan partners remain confident that DeVos Place is the facility that is best suited for this vital regional clinic. Some deciding factors in selecting the facility included:

- It is directly on The Rapid public transit line.
- It has a state-of-the-art air purification and ventilation system.
- It has the infrastructure to support ultra-cold, secure vaccine storage.
- It is in close proximity to Spectrum Health should any visitors require medical attention.
- It has the necessary connectivity and IT infrastructure put in place during previous Alternate Care Site planning.
- It offers ample space to allow for socially distanced registration, vaccination, and post-vaccination observation areas when the clinic is operating at full capacity.

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