

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Beverly Hospital Vaccinates First Front Line Healthcare Workers Against COVID-19**

**Montebello, CA** – December 16, 2020 – Beverly hospital in Montebello, CA on Wednesday afternoon vaccinated its first frontline healthcare worker against the COVID-19 virus. Betzaida Venegas a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), became the first person in the hospital to receive the Pfizer vaccine for the coronavirus.

“I knew I wanted to get the vaccine, I just didn’t know I would be the first in line.” said Venegas just after receiving the shot in her right arm at 12:30 pm. “I feel privileged to be the first at Beverly Hospital to receive the vaccine. It feels great and I feel fine.” The first allotment of vaccine is designated to go to the highest risk healthcare workers based on California Department of Public Health and CDC guidelines. This includes clinical and departmental staff from the hospital’s ER, COVID med/surg, stepdown and ICU units. In addition, respiratory therapists, environmental service staff and physical therapy staff will be encouraged to take the vaccine. Medical staff members in the first tier include those who work in the ER, intensivists, hospitalists and infectious disease providers.

Maria Salcido, RN a charge nurse in Beverly Hospitals COVID-19 Unit was one of the first to receive the vaccine during its first vaccination clinic, “It’s exciting!” she stated, “It makes me

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feel more comfortable and relaxed. I feel like I'm a part of history now. Since the start of the pandemic, I've taken care of hundreds of patients with COVID-19 and this vaccination gives me peace of mind for the future."

In all, 35 healthcare workers received their first dose of Pfizer's vaccine Wednesday at Beverly Hospital. All recipients will receive their second dose of the two-dose vaccine 21 days after their first. Vaccination is a powerful tool for halting this deadly disease. It provides health care workers with an important level of protection, in addition to personal protective equipment and other steps Beverly Hospital has taken to protect caregivers.

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#### **About Beverly Hospital**

Since 1949, Beverly Hospital has been providing quality medical care to the residents of Montebello and surrounding communities such as Pico Rivera, Monterey Park, Rosemead, El Monte, Whittier, and East Los Angeles. Today, this 202-bed acute bed facility is a leading independent, non-profit community hospital, recognized nationally for providing quality care and has a medical staff of over 400 physicians.