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## AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE FULL REOPENING OF CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY... LET'S NOT FORGET TO SCHEDULE REGULAR HEALTHCARE CHECK-UPS

While our community confronted the COVID-19 pandemic, other health priorities became secondary. Many individuals and families forewent regular healthcare check-ups for themselves and their children. For instance, as households were often devoted throughout the pandemic to protecting each other against COVID-19, there were steep declines in the use of children's preventive health services that include scheduled well-child visits and childhood immunizations.

Health Plan San Joaquin (HPSJ) and our healthcare provider partners are concerned by these trends, especially as they relate to the unmet healthcare needs of children.

In collaboration with our provider partners, HPSJ committed to enhancing community outreach efforts that encourage individuals and families to schedule primary care, well-child, and other clinical visits. As our network of providers worked hard throughout 2020 to reopen their practices, HPSJ and our provider partners contacted HPSJ members to coordinate preventive health services for children who may have missed scheduled clinical visits amid the pandemic.

Going further, HPSJ staff partnered with doctors, safety net medical systems and clinics to educate on best practices related to telehealth visits throughout the pandemic. We joined with a medical

group to implement drive-up immunization and well care visits. Local schools were also an important community-wide collaborator, helping us get information to parents on the importance of timely well care visits and immunizations for their children.

The pandemic created several healthcare access challenges for San Joaquin and Stanislaus County residents. However, as the state is reopening, most healthcare providers have been welcoming patients back to catch-up on preventive healthcare services. These services are particularly important for the healthy development of children who are recommended to receive various scheduled im-

munizations and screenings to identify diseases and conditions in their most treatable stages from birth through early adulthood.

All individuals and families, especially those with young children, are encouraged to schedule a check-up with a healthcare provider as soon as possible. Our healthcare providers and their practice staff are eager to help. Health Plan of San Joaquin is the local, non-profit, public health plan. HPSJ is the leading Medi-Cal managed care provider in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. HPSJ members are mostly working households and children, plus seniors and disabled residents. For more, go to [www.hpsj.com](http://www.hpsj.com).