

## MEDIA INFORMATION

## **Corporate Marketing & Public Relations**

Administrative & Regional Training Center 144 Genesee St. · Buffalo, New York 14203

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**Contact:** JoAnn Cavanaugh, Director Public Relations

Office: (716) 706-2061 | Cell: (716) 228-4886 | Email: jcav@chsbuffalo.org

## Catholic Health to Serve as Western Region Lead for New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Planning

Today, Governor Cuomo announced a hub approach to implementing the state's COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Plan and named Catholic Health the Western Region Hub Lead. Incorporating the western Economic Development area, the region includes Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany counties. Under the direction of New York State, Catholic Health will work with healthcare and community partners across the five counties to execute the regional vaccination plan.

"Catholic Health is honored to partner with regional leaders to establish a planning network that ensures the quickest, safest and most equitable distribution and administration of this precious vaccine to people across our region," said Mark Sullivan, President & CEO of Catholic Health.

As equitable distribution is a critical aspect of the vaccine planning process, Catholic Health will work with coordinating partners to quickly establish a Health Equity Task Force to identify key issues and best practices that may be incorporated into the distribution plan, following the state's phased distribution guidance.

"It's a tremendous privilege to lead this coalition as we come together, not only for the citizens of our region, but also for the thousands of healthcare heroes who have been bravely fighting this COVID battle, caring and sacrificing for our community," Sullivan added. "This collaborative effort will deliver a long-term solution to this crisis for them as well."