Former Kings Star Kenny Thomas Urges Community to Get COVID-19 Vaccine
Thomas gets shot as vaccine becomes available to all those 16 and over

SACRAMENTO – Tomorrow, the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to all Californians over the age of 16. Alongside Sacramento public health officials, today former NBA basketball player Kenny Thomas received the COVID-19 vaccine at Cal Expo and urged all Californians to do the same.

"It has been an incredibly tough year on so many in our community and now we finally have an answer to get our economy, our schools, and our lives back on track," said Thomas, who played 11 seasons in the NBA, including his final 6 years for the Sacramento Kings. "Without hesitation I am getting vaccinated and urge everyone to do the same."

Thomas continues to live in Sacramento and urged all Sacramento residents to immediately schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine by visiting www.saccounty.net/COVID-19.

Kaiser members can also visit: https://mydoctor.kaiserpermanente.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine.

"COVID-19 has hit our Sacramento community hard – in some areas more than others," said Sacramento County Public Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye. "The vaccine offers members of our community protection against COVID-19 and our Sacramento County Public Health team is committed to increasing equity and access to everyone who wants to get vaccinated."

"With eligibility opening up to people aged 16 and older tomorrow, we are hopeful that everyone who is eligible will choose to get vaccinated to protect themselves and our community from COVID-19," added Kasirye. "Thank you to Kenny Thomas for raising awareness about this important issue."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cal Expo has been unable to host public events in over a year, including its trademark State Fair last summer. Instead, Cal Expo has been dedicated to almost

entirely COVID-19 response – as a mass COVID-19 testing site as well as providing shelter trailers and warming stations for the unhoused. Since the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, Cal Expo has also been the site of two mass vaccination locations – one led by Sacramento County Public Health department and the other by Kaiser Permanente.

"It has been quite a year since the pandemic upended daily life for everyone," said Jess Durfee, Chair of the Cal Expo Board of Directors. "While we have been unable to host public events, Cal Expo is honored to be able to provide support and much-needed aid to Californians during this health crisis. It is this work that will allow us to hopefully host events again soon."

Over 150,000 vaccines have been administered at Cal Expo since the end of January, and now are upwards of 5,000 vaccines every day, and plan to vaccinate more than 10,000 people each day as supply becomes available. In addition, more than 60,000 people were tested for COVID-19 in 2020 at Cal Expo.

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