

# **Southcoast Health, Operation Clean Sweep team up for volunteering for cleanup in New Bedford, vaccinations**

Southcoast Health will host Operation Clean Sweep on and around the St. Luke's Hospital campus in New Bedford's West End from 8am until noon on Saturday, July 17. The community is invited to join in this event for a day of giving back with fellow volunteers, friends and neighbors.

The Southcoast Mobile Wellness Team will be on site administering the single-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to individuals 18 and over, officials said.

"Southcoast Health understands that the environment in which community members live, work and play is a critical indicator of overall health and wellness in the area. Collaborating with Operation Clean Sweep represents an opportunity to directly contribute to our neighborhoods' quality of life," said Rachel Davis, Southcoast Health Director of Community Benefits. "Cleanups are a fun way to get outside and volunteer for a good cause, bringing about immediate results while reminding us to be mindful of our environmental impact."

Added Davis: "While we are thrilled to welcome our volunteers back and begin hosting community events again, we also know that COVID-19 is still a clear and present concern, so the Southcoast Mobile Wellness Team will be available to vaccinate volunteers and visitors safely, effectively and conveniently."

Complimentary refreshments, t-shirts, gardening gloves, and hand sanitizer will be available while supplies last. Students and volunteers are also eligible to earn community service hours during the cleanup.

Operation Clean Sweep is a grassroots organization, run by volunteers who have made outstanding progress decreasing litter in the New Bedford area.

“We are excited to partner with Southcoast Health once again,” said Russ Wotton, co-leader of Operation Clean Sweep. “We always have many volunteers join us, and it’s great to see the community work together.”

Check-in will begin at 8am and is located in the Southcoast Health employee parking lot at the corner of Hawthorn and Page streets near St. Luke’s Hospital.

Please visit <https://www.southcoast.org/event/ocs2021/> for registration and additional information.

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### **About Southcoast Health**

*Celebrating the system’s 25th anniversary in 2021, Southcoast Health is a not-for-profit, charitable organization and the largest provider of primary and specialty care in the region, serving communities in Rhode Island and across Southeastern Massachusetts. Southcoast Health is a Newsweek’s World’s Best Hospital in 2019, 2020, and 2021. Out of the 2,743 considered hospitals in the United States, only 250 earned this recognition. In 2020 and 2021, St. Luke’s is a Newsweek and Leapfrog’s Best Maternity Hospitals. In 2019 and 2020, the Southcoast Health system also received seven awards, including Best Hospitals and Best Place to Work, in SouthCoast Media Group’s Best of the Best Awards voted on by residents and readers.*

As a network of more than 700 physicians, hospitalists, and mid-level practitioners, Southcoast Health is a system of three acute care hospitals – Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, St. Luke’s Hospital in New Bedford, and Tobey Hospital in Wareham, and also provides behavioral health

services in partnership with Acadia at Southcoast Behavioral Health in Dartmouth. Southcoast Health's System comprises seven Urgent Care Centers, two Centers for Cancer Care, visiting nurse association, and numerous additional ambulatory facilities that offer convenience and access to services for more than 724,000 residents in 33 communities covering over 900 square miles in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

With 7,500 employees, Southcoast Health is the largest employer in Southeastern Mass., and one of the largest employers in the Commonwealth, according to the Boston Business Journal. Southcoast Health is proud of our mission of providing high-quality, affordable healthcare to our patients and proud of our tradition of eliminating the barriers that prevent access to care. More information is available online at [www.southcoast.org](http://www.southcoast.org). Connect to Southcoast Health through social media on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Southcoast® is a registered trademark of Southcoast Health System.