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NEW YORK CITY HEALTH + HOSPITALS/ELMHURST JOINS METROPLUSHEALTH IN LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Queens, NY – February 7, 2022 – NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst partnered with MetroPlusHealth, New York City’s five-star health plan, celebrating the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Tiger, which officially began on Tuesday, February 1.

On Friday, February 4, NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst and MetroPlusHealth rang in the Year of the Tiger with an exceptional performance of the lion dance in front of Elmhurst Hospital. There was a balloon artist on-site making balloons into the shape of tigers as staff handed out red envelopes or hongbao in Mandarin and lai se in Cantonese for good luck. In Chinese culture, red is associated with happiness, energy, and good fortune, and the red envelope itself is considered lucky.

Local elected officials joined NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst and MetroPlusHealth to celebrate the New Year. Highlights of the event included the Wing Hong Yip Lion Dance Performance and greetings from Helen Arteaga Landaverde, CEO of NYC Health+Hospitals/Elmhurst; Dr. Eric Wei, Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer for NYC Health + Hospitals; Roger Milliner, Chief Growth Officer, MetroPlushealth; Senator John Liu; Sandra Ung, NYC Council Member; Sabine French; Queens Borough Advocate from the Office of NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams; Minwen Yang, from Senator Toby Stavisky Office; and Weilai Rice, from Councilman Shekar Krishnan’s Office.

MetroPlusHealth representatives also distributed red envelopes on Saturday, February 5, at the Flushing office located at 136-13 Roosevelt Avenue. Representatives were on-site to answer questions regarding health insurance and enroll residents into a plan for the New Year.

“NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst is happy to celebrate Asian Lunar New Year and the fortitude and great resiliency of our vibrant Asian communities,” said **Helen Arteaga Landaverde, MPH, CEO of NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst**. “We hope the ‘Year of the Tiger’ proves to be a time of renewed health and strength as we begin to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and move forward toward an optimistic and prosperous future.”

“To everyone who celebrates the Lunar New Year: Happy New Year from MetroPlusHealth and me,” said **Roger Milliner, Chief Growth Officer of MetroPlusHealth**. May the Year of the Tiger be prosperous and bring us an end to the pandemic. We have overcome many challenges in the last two years. Still, we will prevail with vitality and health, suiting for the Year of the Tiger.”

“Following a difficult two years featuring a devastating public health crisis and a wave of anti-Asian prejudice, the Asian Lunar New Year event at New York City Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst will be a jubilant celebration of the ‘Year of the Tiger and Queens,’ proud Asian American community,” said **Donovan Richards Jr., Queens Borough President**. “After everything our heroic health care workers

have been through during the COVID-19 pandemic; it is great that they will get to celebrate the Asian Lunar New Year during this joyous event. Thank you to New York City Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst and MetroPlusHealth for organizing this exciting celebration that our amazing health care workers so richly deserve.”

“This year’s Lunar New Year Celebration marks a hopeful season of renewal, transformation, and opportunity for Asian-American families across our borough,” said **Melinda Katz, District Attorney for the Borough of Queens**. “As we collectively overcome the challenges of a pandemic recovery, I join Elmhurst Hospital in honoring the vibrancy of the AAPI community’s new year’s traditions. May the Year of the Tiger bring peace, success, and good health to all celebrating this week.”

“Lunar New Year is a time to gather with family, friends and loved ones,” said **Sandra Ung, Councilwoman for District 20**. “I am thankful to the team at Elmhurst Hospital for hosting these fun and creative Lunar New Year Festivities and giving the community the opportunity to come together and celebrate. I also want to wish all New Yorkers a happy, healthy and prosperous Year of the Tiger.”

“It is an honor to wish a warm and happy Lunar New Year to everybody ringing in the Year of the Tiger at Elmhurst Hospital-MetroPlusHealth’s celebration,” said **Grace Meng, Congresswoman for District 6**. “In Congress, I am continuing to sponsor legislation that seeks to recognize the cultural and historical significance of the holiday, and I will also be introducing another new bill for Lunar New Year soon. In addition, I’m proud to have fought for the creation of the Lunar New Year school holiday here in New York City. I hope that you and your loved ones have an enjoyable, healthy, and safe celebration for all who celebrate. May you find good fortune, prosperity, and success in the year ahead. Thank you, Elmhurst Hospital, for the outstanding work that your team continues to do each and every day for our communities.”

“I wish all our neighbors who celebrate the Lunar New Year a very happy and prosperous New Year. I hope the ‘Year of the Tiger’ is special and safe for our loved ones and the community. While it has been a difficult year, I know that, like the tiger, we will continue to be strong together,” said **Jessica González-Rojas, Assemblymember for District 34**.

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About New York City Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst

NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst, part of the NYC Health + Hospitals health care system, is the major tertiary care provider in the borough of Queens. The 545-bed hospital is a Level 1 Trauma Center, an Emergency Heart Care Station, and a 911-Receiving Hospital. It is a premiere health organization for key specialties, including surgery, cardiology, women’s health, pediatrics, rehabilitation medicine, renal services, and mental health services. Last year, the hospital received close to 700,000 ambulatory care visits and over 130,000 emergency room visits.

About MetroPlusHealth

Since 1985, MetroPlus Health Plan has built a reputation for providing affordable, quality health care to residents across New York City. MetroPlusHealth is the plan of choice for over 600,000 New Yorkers and has a five-star rating based on the State's 2020 Consumer's Guide to Medicaid and Child Health Plus Managed Care Plans in New York City. It was recently ranked the #1 health plan among all 15 New York State Medicaid plans in overall quality. The health plan's robust network of primary care doctors and specialists includes many independent community providers. Culturally sensitive and fluent in more than 40 languages, MetroPlusHealth's staff is as diverse as the great city it serves. For more information about MetroPlusHealth plans, benefits, and services, visit www.metroplus.org and join the conversation at facebook.com/metroplushealth and Twitter [@metroplushealth](https://twitter.com/metroplushealth). MetroPlusHealth is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NYC Health + Hospitals, the nation's largest public health system.