

**CONTACT:**

Divendra Jaffar  
212-908-3380/646-952-3243  
[jaffadi@metroplus.org](mailto:jaffadi@metroplus.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****FLUSHING DEVELOPMENT CENTER TO HOST 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MID-AUTUMN  
FESTIVAL IN FLUSHING, QUEENS*****MetroPlusHealth to Host Pre-Event Press Conference***

**(Flushing, NY – September 10, 2021)** – MetroPlusHealth, New York City’s five-star plan, in partnership with the Flushing Development Center, is proud to announce the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Mid-Autumn Festival on Saturday, September 18, 2021. The Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated in many Asian communities and is known as the Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival. It is a time for families to reunite and celebrate.

***The celebration includes:***

- 3:00–7 p.m.: Kite Flying at Kissena Corridor Park
- 5:30–7:30 p.m.: Musical performance at Kissena Corridor Park
- 5:00 p.m.: Parade along Main Street (from 38th Avenue to Elder Avenue)
- 5:30 p.m.: Opening Ceremony and Performance at Kissena Corridor Park
- 6:30 p.m.: Moon Cake Eating Contest at Kissena Corridor Park
- 7:30 p.m.: Fireworks at Kissena Corridor Park

NYC Health + Hospitals’ Test & Trace mobile will be on-site from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Colden Street and Elder Avenue. Representatives from MetroPlusHealth, NYC Commission on Human Rights, and Queens District Attorney’s Office will provide information on healthcare, human rights, and legal rights. Award-winning Producer Ann Hu and Senior Army Instructor retired Lt. Col. Al Lahood joins the festival’s press conference on Friday, September 10, at the new MetroPlusHealth’s flagship office to discuss dyslexia among children. Lt. Col. Al Lahood and the Francis Lewis High School Drill Team Band will perform at the parade.

“We are very proud to carry this celebration tradition to its 21<sup>st</sup> year,” said **Fred Fu, President of Flushing Development Center**. “After the pandemic and anti-Asian Hate Crimes, it is important to show our vibrant Asian cultures and traditions to the public. We are very glad to see all ethnic groups standing with the Asian communities.”

“MetroPlusHealth is proud to sponsor and partner with the Flushing Development Center for the 21<sup>st</sup> Mid-Autumn Festival,” said **Dr. Talya Schwartz, President & CEO of MetroPlusHealth**. “May this year’s celebration bring health, prosperity, peace, and unity for all. Enjoy the festival’s music, food, performances, and activities.”

“The Mid-Autumn Festival in Flushing is a joyous annual celebration of the arrival of the harvest season and the benefits of having so many cultures represented in Queens,” said **Donovan Richards, President of Queens Borough**. “With our community having gone through so much over the past 20 months, it is great to be able to spend time with family and friends during what will be a spectacular parade and festival. I salute Flushing Development Center, MetroPlusHealth, and all those who are involved in organizing this celebration.”

“The Mid-Autumn Festival is a cherished and essential tradition for many residents and communities in Queens,” said **Ron Kim, Assemblymember of District 40**. “This multicultural gathering is a wonderful occasion for us to come together in gratitude for the amazing food and the company of our friends and neighbors, echoing this holiday’s celebration of prosperity and a good harvest. Thanks to the Flushing Development Center and MetroPlusHealth for their efforts in organizing and supporting this wholesome and diverse event.”

“New York is the proud home to residents who hail from every corner of the map, speak a multitude of languages, and represent a wide array of backgrounds and beliefs. This remarkable diversity is the source of our singularity and strength, and it lends us endless reasons to celebrate,” said **Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York**. “As you gather to enjoy an evening of exciting activities, I commend the Flushing Development Center and all those associated with it for uniting this multicultural community in fellowship and for working to build a better and more inclusive future for all.

“Mid-Autumn Festival is a special and important time for the Asian-American community that includes spending time with family, friends and sharing special food. I thank the Flushing Development Center for bringing more attention to this annual commemoration with such activities as a multicultural parade, musical performances, and a moon cake eating competition. I look forward to this year’s celebration,” said **Grace Meng, Congresswoman of District 6**.

“Thank you to MetroPlusHealth and Director Hu for sponsoring this Mid-Autumn Festival celebration and parade, and Mr. Fu for organizing this parade for 21 years,” said **Peter Koo, Councilman of District 20**.

“Mid-Autumn Festival is a festival for a family reunion; it means a lot to Chinese living overseas and Chinese descendants,” said **Ann Hu, Award-winning Producer**. “Thanks to Fred Fu for organizing this wonderful event, allowing us to celebrate it with all communities in New York, and I wish everyone a Happy Moon Festival.”

###

### **About MetroPlusHealth**

Since 1985, MetroPlus Health Plan has built a reputation for providing access to 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. 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](http://www.metroplus.org) and join the conversation at [facebook.com/metroplushealth](https://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.