



Archived Document

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COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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For immediate release:
January 11, 2010

Contact: Nicole Stanfield
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H1N1 Vaccine is Readily Available in Orange County

(Santa Ana) – January 10 through 16 is National Influenza Vaccination week and the Health Care Agency recommends that all individuals get vaccinated against H1N1 as another wave of illness could occur later this season. H1N1 activity is expected to continue throughout the influenza season and the most effective protection we have against influenza is vaccination.

“Illness from H1N1 has declined in California over the past several weeks, but we cannot predict how this virus will behave in the next several months,” said Dr. Eric Handler, Orange County Public Health Officer. “We strongly encourage the residents of Orange County to receive their H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccine to protect themselves from becoming ill.”

H1N1 vaccine is now widely available in Orange County and across the country. In addition to being able to obtain vaccinations from private healthcare providers, vaccinations are now widely available to the public through pharmacies, community clinics and other providers. Locations throughout Orange County can be found at www.flu.gov or cell phone users can text the word “NO FLU” and their zip code to 30644 and receive the nearest vaccination location. The Orange County Health Care Agency is continuing to provide H1N1 vaccinations at 1725 W. 17th Street, Santa Ana, Monday through Friday, 9:00a.m. - 4:30p.m. The clinic is closed for lunch from 11:45a.m. to 1:00p.m. Vaccinations are available free of charge to Orange County residents on a walk-in basis.

The most current local information is available on the HCA web site, www.ochealthinfo.com, or by calling the Health Referral Line at (800) 564-8448.

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For immediate release:
February 18, 2010

Contact: Nicole Stanfield
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Orange County Ranked Among Top 10 Healthiest Counties in California

(Santa Ana) – A new national study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranked Orange County among the ten healthiest counties in the state. The only county in Southern California ranked in the top ten, Orange County ranked number seven for health outcomes and number nine for health factors. The study, which was based on county-by-county health statistics for 56 of California's 58 counties, also found that Orange County residents are less likely to currently smoke or be obese compared to state-wide averages.

The *County Health Rankings* report provides overall rankings for health outcomes and for health factors for every county in every state. Health outcome rankings are based on mortality and morbidity, while health factor rankings are based on health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. "The County Health Rankings provide a new way for the community to measure success and identify areas that need improvement as it relates to health and well being," said David Riley, Orange County Health Care Agency Director. "This report will help us to work with the community to address factors to improve the health of Orange County residents."

Orange County's high rankings can be attributed to the success of many individuals' healthy behaviors, community partnerships, a culture that supports a healthy and active lifestyle, and the services in place to protect and promote the health of our residents.

The 2010 County Health Rankings report is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The report is available online at www.countyhealthrankings.org/california.



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For Immediate Release
February 24, 2010

Contact: Amy Buch
(714) 834-5728

Youth-Created "Tobacco and Hollywood" Ads Unveiled

(Santa Ana) – To help youth make informed decisions and to counter the influence that smoking in movies has on youth, the County of Orange Health Care Agency's Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP) is joining with community leaders, educators and students for a series of special events to unveil youth-created "Tobacco and Hollywood" bus shelter posters.

The following bus shelter unveiling events will take place March 2, 3 and 4 in the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Garden Grove:

March 2, 2010

10 a.m.

City of Fullerton (corner of State College Blvd. and Nutwood Ave.)

Youth Artist Carlos Hernandez from La Vista High School

March 3, 2010

10 a.m.

City of Anaheim (corner of Euclid St. and Cerritos Ave.)

Youth Artist Marcela Belmar from Loara High School

11 a.m.

City of Anaheim (corner of Euclid St. and Sallie Ln.)

Youth Artists Tomas Mendoza and Randy Roman from Loara High School

March 4, 2010

3:30 p.m.

City of Garden Grove (corner of Brookhurst St. and Hazard Ave.)

Youth Artist Jocelyn Romero from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Garden Grove

Smoking in movies has been shown in research studies to increase the likelihood that youth will start smoking. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has repeatedly cited exposure to tobacco use in media as a major factor in youth smoking. Youth who see smoking on television and other media are more likely to start smoking than youth who are not exposed to smoking in media.

A study from Dartmouth Medical School shows that children age 10-14 who watched the highest amount of smoking in movies were 2.71 times more likely to start smoking than those children who viewed the least amount.

The mission of the Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP) is to reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke in Orange County by collaborating with community organizations, public agencies and committed individuals. TUPP offers youth and adults tobacco education, as well as free smoking cessation and prevention programs. Information about cessation services for adults and teens is available by calling (866) NEW-LUNG or (866) 639-5864. More information about TUPP can be found online at www.ochealthinfo.com/tupp.

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For Immediate Release:
February 24, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
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Seventy Percent of Emergency Room Visits in Orange County for Infants Were for Non-Emergent Conditions, County Study Finds

(Santa Ana, CA) – Nearly half of all emergency room visits made each year in the county were avoidable and more appropriately treated in a primary care setting according to a recent study published by the Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA). The data also showed that 70% of visits made for infants were avoidable and that patients with private insurance had the lowest rates of such visits to the emergency room.

“The cost of emergency department care is much higher than a primary care setting and overcrowding has a significant impact on service delivery,” said David Riley, Director of the Health Care Agency. “This underscores the importance of expanding alternative sources of care such as urgent care centers, clinics, preventive services, and dial-a-nurse hotlines to meet this need.”

The Health Care Agency examined emergency room utilization among the county’s 26 hospital emergency departments in 2007, the most recent year for which published data are available. The study found that nearly half of all emergency department visits in the County, more than 336,000 in a year, could have been avoided or otherwise treated in a primary care setting.

Avoidable visits included conditions such as asthma attacks or ear infections that required urgent care, but could have been avoided with timely and effective primary care. The highest percentages of non-urgent, avoidable visits were for infants and children, while seniors had the lowest percentage of avoidable ED utilization.

The full report is available on the HCA website at: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/pubs>.

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For Immediate Release
March 15, 2010

Contact: Tricia Landquist
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Local Food Establishments Receive Award of Excellence

(SANTA ANA) – From a qualifying group of 9,631 food facilities throughout the County, the Health Care Agency's Environmental Health Division has issued 3,041 Award of Excellence certificates to local Orange County food facilities this month. Environmental Health's Food Protection Program recognizes these facilities for their outstanding safety and sanitation practices during 2009. The certificate acknowledges the dedication of each recipient and highlights their diligent efforts in preventing health code violations.

Included in the Award of Excellence Program are food facilities such as restaurants, catering establishments, meat/seafood markets, retail bakeries, supermarket/bakery combinations, and public and private schools with food production service. A complete list of all recipients and award criteria is available online at www.ocfoodinfo.com/foodaward.htm.

The annual Award of Excellence provides an incentive for food establishments to consistently meet or exceed health and safety standards for food facility operations. Eligible food establishments throughout the County may receive this award each year that they exhibit excellent food safety and sanitation practices.

The Food Protection Program focuses on the inspection of retail food facilities in order to promote the safe and sanitary preparation and service of foods, prevent foodborne illness, and protect consumers from adulterated food products. For more information about the Health Care Agency's Food Protection Program, visit www.ocfoodinfo.com.



*Excellence
Integrity
Service*

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For Immediate Release
March 18, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson, HCA
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(714) 935-7107

Precautions Urged to Prevent Exposures to Bats and Other Wild Animals

(Santa Ana) – The Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA) and OC Animal Care are reporting that three (3) bats have tested positive for rabies in Orange County so far this year. While there are no rabies cases in humans, this is a good reminder that it is important for people to avoid contact with bats, as well as other wild animals that can carry rabies.

Rabies, an infection of the nervous system caused by a virus, is almost universally fatal. The rabies virus is found in an animal's saliva and is transmitted to people by a bite from a rabid animal. Although very rare, contamination of the eyes, mouth or an open wound by the saliva of a rabid animal can also transmit rabies.

Several species of bats are native to Orange County. The best advice is to never touch a bat with your bare hands, even if it appears to be dead. Anyone who has been bitten or scratched by a bat should seek medical attention immediately. If you observe a bat in your home, confine it to one unoccupied room of the house and call your local animal control agency or OC Animal Care; animal control officers will remove the bat from the home for testing. OC Animal Care or your local animal control agency should also be notified if you observe a bat that is acting abnormally during daylight hours.

As warmer weather approaches, Orange County residents are encouraged to make sure their doors and windows have proper screens that will keep bats and other animals, as well as insects such as mosquitoes, out of their homes. Bats can squeeze into very small spaces and steps should be taken to bat-proof the exterior of your home or other buildings on your property. This includes closing all outside openings larger than 3/8" inch by using mesh, netting, caulking or other sealants.

HCA and OC Animal Care recommend the following preventive actions:

- Avoid all contact with wild animals
- Vaccinate all cats and dogs against rabies
- Do not sleep with open unscreened windows or doors

- If bats are seen inside the house or other structure, close off the area and contact animal control. Once the bat(s) have been removed, close off any areas allowing entrance into the house.
- Do not leave pet food outside where it will attract wild animals.
- Immediately wash all animal bites with soap and water, being sure to flush the wound well, then contact your doctor
- Report all animal bites to OC Animal Care
- Report stray animals to OC Animal Care

Potential human exposure to a bat or other wild animal should be reported to Orange County Public Health Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180. To report a bat in your home, an animal bite, or a stray animal, contact OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848.

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For Immediate Release
April 19, 2010

Contact: Amy Buch
(714) 834-5728

Youth-Created "Tobacco and Hollywood" Poster Unveiled

(Santa Ana) – To help youth make informed decisions and to counter the influence that smoking in movies has on youth, the County of Orange Health Care Agency's Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP) is joining with community leaders, educators and students for a special event to unveil a youth-created "Tobacco and Hollywood" poster.

A media unveiling event featuring a poster created by youth artist Alexandra Gerrain from San Clemente High School will take place on Friday, April 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the Krikorian Theater located at 641-B Camino De Los Mares in the City of San Clemente.

Smoking in movies has been shown in research studies to increase the likelihood that youth will start smoking. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has repeatedly cited exposure to tobacco use in media as a major factor in youth smoking. Youth who see smoking on television and other media are more likely to start smoking than youth who are not exposed to smoking in media.

A study from Dartmouth Medical School showed that children age 10-14 who watched the highest amount of smoking in movies were 2.71 times more likely to start smoking than those children who viewed the least amount.

The mission of the Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP) is to reduce tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke in Orange County by collaborating with community organizations, public agencies and committed individuals. TUPP offers tobacco education for youth and adults, as well as free tobacco cessation and prevention services. Information about cessation services for adults and teens is available by calling (866) NEW-LUNG or (866) 639-5864. More information about TUPP can be found online at www.ochealthinfo.com/tupp.

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For Immediate Release
May 12, 2010

Contact: Amy Buch
(714) 834-5728

Youth-Created "Tobacco and Hollywood" Posters Unveiled

(Santa Ana) – To help youth make informed decisions and to counter the influence that smoking in movies has on youth, the County of Orange Health Care Agency's Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP) is joining with community leaders, educators and students for a series of special events to unveil youth-created "Tobacco and Hollywood" bus shelter posters.

The following bus shelter unveiling events will take place May 17, 18 and 19 in the cities of Buena Park, Fullerton and Santa Ana:

May 17, 2010

10:30 a.m.

City of Buena Park (corner of Orangethorpe Ave. and Indiana Ave.)

Youth Artist Brianda Arredondo from Buena Park High School

May 18, 2010

11:30 a.m.

City of Santa Ana (corner of Main St. and 10th St.)

Youth Artist Jennifer Geasey from Orange County High School of the Arts

2:30 p.m.

City of Santa Ana (corner of Main St. and 17th St.)

Youth Artist Gianmarco Otiniano from Orange County High School of the Arts

May 19, 2010

10:30 a.m.

City of Fullerton (corner of Imperial Hwy. and Palm St.)

Youth Artist Jessica Scott from Sonora High School

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MEDIA ADVISORY



Fruit and Veggie Fest 2010 – “Shop Smart for a Healthy Start”

A Healthy Life Begins in Your Shopping Cart

Sponsored by the Network for a Healthy California—Orange County Region Retail Program

- WHAT:** Fruit and Veggie Fest will be a fun-filled day of educational, interactive activities designed to highlight ways families can make healthy choices on a limited budget. Visitors to the El Metate Market in Costa Mesa will learn from community partners and local mothers about the importance of healthy eating and how to buy and prepare nutritious meals and snacks. This event is part of a month-long statewide effort by the California Department of Public Health’s *Network for a Healthy California-Retail Program* to encourage low-income families to become Champions for Change by making healthy, active living a priority.
- WHY:** Many Orange County residents need to find ways to feed their families healthy meals on a limited budget. Fruit and Veggie Fest will teach shoppers how to maximize their food dollars and increase their purchase of fresh, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables. Families should participate in food assistance programs when needed and consume healthy foods, which can help them reduce their risk of developing serious health problems, such as obesity and type 2 diabetes.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Toast to Health Ceremony at 12:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** El Metate Market, 817 W. 19th Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 (19th & Placentia)
- WHO:** Partners include:
- *Network for a Healthy California—Orange County Region*
 - El Metate Markets
 - County of Orange Health Care Agency
 - Newport-Mesa Unified School District
 - Western Growers Association
- PHOTO OPS:** Activities include:
- Store Tours: Hourly tours with tips to help shoppers make healthy changes
 - Rethink Your Drink: Local Champion Moms will teach label reading and more
 - Stretch Your Food Dollar: Learn about Food Stamps, WIC and food assistance
 - Rate the Taste: Sample veggies with the *Children’s Power Play! Campaign*
 - Smoothie Bike: Pedal your way to a healthy beverage with the *Latino Campaign*
 - Berry Delicious: Try Strawberry Gazpacho and other seasonal berries
- CONTACT:** Maridet Ibanez, Program Manager
County of Orange Health Care Agency, Public Health Services/Nutrition Services
714-834-8092 or mibanez@ochca.com



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- CONTACT:** Maridet Ibanez, Program Manager
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714-834-8092 or mibanez@ochca.com



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For immediate release:
June 9, 2010

Contact: Nicole Stanfield
(714) 834-2178

Fraudulent Health Inspection Activity Reported at Local Food Establishments

(Santa Ana) — The Orange County Health Care Agency Environmental Health Division is alerting restaurant operators and others in the food facility industry about fraudulent activity involving an individual or individuals contacting various food establishments claiming to be a health inspector.

County officials said inspections of food facilities are done by trained and certified Environmental Health Specialists and are generally unannounced. Environmental Health Specialists do not collect money at a food service facility and do not sell or endorse specific products. State law also requires Environmental Health Specialists to carry official photo identification and an employee of the food establishment may refuse entry to an Environmental Health Specialist who is unable to present official identification.

Officials said an individual using various names contacts the businesses by phone posing as a “health inspector” and states that an inspection is scheduled, usually for the next day at a specific time. The operator is then given a phone number to call to verify the inspection and in certain cases a “confirmation number” is also given. There have also been reports throughout the country of imposters extorting money from food facility operators.

Anyone with questions regarding fraudulent activity or other issues related to health inspections should contact the Environmental Health Division at (714) 433-6000. You can learn more about the Food Protection Program by visiting the website at www.ocfoodinfo.com.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
June 24, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
714-834-2178
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‘Take the Test, Take Control’ June 27th is National HIV Testing Day

(Santa Ana) – On June 27th thousands of Americans will take control of their health and get tested for HIV. National HIV Testing Day promotes testing and early diagnosis of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. HIV testing is a routine part of general healthcare and is a critical step in reducing HIV infections. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that HIV testing be offered to all individuals aged 13 to 64 as part of routine medical screening. In addition to HIV testing through healthcare providers, free and low-cost HIV testing is available year-round throughout Orange County.

In Orange County, over 300 people are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS each year. Based upon the CDC estimates, about one-fifth of the people living with HIV in the United States don't know they are infected. In Orange County, this means there may be 1,800 people that have HIV but are not aware of it.

Knowing their HIV status enables people to protect their own health as well as prevent the spread of the disease. In Orange County, the following agencies offer confidential and anonymous free or low-cost testing:

- **Orange County Health Care Agency:** 17th Street Clinic, (714) 834-8787: walk-ins only - Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **The Center Orange County:** (714) 953-5428 x208: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 1p.m.to 6 p.m. by appointment only; Walk-ins available - Wednesday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **AIDS Services Foundation:** (949) 809-8775: walk-ins only - Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Laguna Beach Community Clinic:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., (949) 494-0761 (there is a charge for services; call for details).

For more testing sites and information call the AIDS Hotline at (800) 367-2437 or go online: www.AIDShotline.org. For information on the HIV Prevention Planning Committee or HIV services in Orange County, contact the Health Care Agency at (714) 834-8711, or visit www.ochealthinfo.com.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
June 24, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
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dthompson@ochca.com

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Latinos are especially affected by HIV/AIDS. In 2009, almost half (47%) of Orange County AIDS cases and 39% of all HIV cases diagnosed were Latino. Based upon the CDC estimates, about one-fifth of the people living with HIV in the United States don't know they are infected. In Orange County, this means there may be 1,800 people that have HIV but are not aware of it.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 14, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
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dthompson@ochca.com

High Temperatures Bring Risk of Heat-Related Illnesses

(Santa Ana) - Many inland Orange County communities are expected to record high temperatures of over 90° this week, increasing the risk of heat related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heat stroke for those who are more sensitive to the heat.

Prolonged exposure to excessive temperatures may cause serious conditions like heat exhaustion or heat stroke and can even be fatal. Symptoms of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, muscle cramps, weakness, headache, nausea or vomiting and dizziness. Warning signs of heat stroke may include an extremely high body temperature, unconsciousness, confusion, hot and dry skin (no sweating), a rapid, strong pulse, and a throbbing headache. If symptoms of heat stroke occur, immediately call for medical assistance. Move the person to a shady area and begin cooling their body with water.

Recommended precautions to prevent heat related illnesses include:

- Drink plenty of water; don't wait until you are thirsty.
- Wear light, loose-fitting clothing.
- Avoid unnecessary sun exposure; wear a hat, preferably with a wide brim, when in the sun and use sunscreen.
- Avoid unnecessary exertion if you are outside or in non-air conditioned buildings. If you are working outdoors, take frequent rest and refreshment breaks in a shaded area.
- Never leave children, elderly people or pets unattended in closed cars or other vehicles.
- Check on those who are at high risk to make sure they are staying cool – including seniors who live alone, people with heart or lung disease, and young children.
- Stay cool indoors - if your home is not air conditioned, visit public facilities such as shopping malls and libraries to stay cool.

For more information on heat related illnesses, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 23, 2010

Contact: Nicole Stanfield
(714) 834-2178
nstanfield@ochca.com

HCA Encourages Vaccination as Pertussis Cases Increase

(Santa Ana) - The number of pertussis (whooping cough) cases continues to grow. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has reported 1,496 cases; Orange County has reported 122 pertussis cases to date. Of greatest concern is that nearly 40% of Orange County cases are in infants under 6 months of age. With an additional death reported this week, there have now been six deaths in California, all infants under six months of age. No deaths have been reported in Orange County residents.

Pertussis is a highly contagious disease and young infants are particularly vulnerable. According to Dr. Nancy Bowen, Medical Director of HCA Public Health Services, "Incidence of severe pertussis is highest in infants under 6 months of age, with hospitalization rates over 80% in the youngest infants."

In response to the increased level of disease, this week the CDPH broadened recommendations for immunizing against pertussis. In addition to the typical series of childhood pertussis immunizations, CDPH now recommends an adolescent-adult pertussis booster vaccine (Tdap) for:

- anyone 7 years and older who is not fully immunized, including those over 64 years old
- women of childbearing age, before, during, or immediately after pregnancy
- other people who have contact with pregnant women or infants.

Vaccination against whooping cough usually begins at age two months, but can be started as early as six weeks in times when pertussis is prevalent in the community such as now. Adequate protection is not complete until the last of the first series of three shots at 6 months of age. It is critical that those in close contact with infants be immunized against pertussis to better protect the infants too young to be completely vaccinated. Since it takes a couple weeks for protection, people planning to have close contact with an infant should also get vaccinated now. This includes pregnant women prior to delivery.

Vaccine is widely available from medical providers, including community clinics, throughout Orange County. Individuals that do not have medical insurance covering the vaccination or who are unable to obtain the vaccination from their healthcare provider may obtain vaccine free of charge from the Health Care Agency's Immunization Clinic located at 1725 W. 17th Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706, Monday through Friday from 8-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m. For more information, visit the Health Care Agency's website at <http://ochealthinfo.com> or call the Health Referral Line at 1-800-564-8448.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 28, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
714-834-2178
dthompson@ochca.com

Bats Found in Newport Beach and the City of Orange Test Positive for Rabies

(Santa Ana) - Two bats found in public areas in two different Orange County cities have tested positive for rabies. Anyone who had contact with a bat on Monday, July 26, 2010,

- 1) Before 6:00 PM in the vicinity of the bike trail at University and Jamboree in Newport Beach,
or
- 2) Before 3:30 PM in the vicinity of the Bank of America at 2680 N Tustin Ave. in Orange

is asked to call Orange County Health Care Agency Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 so that a nurse can evaluate the risk for rabies. Once a person begins showing signs and symptoms of rabies, the disease is nearly always fatal. For that reason, preventive treatment to stop the rabies virus from causing illness is given to anyone who may have been exposed to rabies. Medical assistance should be obtained promptly after an exposure so any wound can be cleaned and preventive treatment can be started. This treatment is safe and effective.

The rabies virus is found in an animal's saliva and is transmitted to people by a bite from a rabid animal. Although very rare, contamination of the eyes, mouth or an open wound by the saliva of a rabid animal can also transmit rabies. Most cases of human rabies in the United States in recent years have resulted from bat strains of rabies; bats have very small teeth, and their bites may go unnoticed.

HCA and OC Animal Care recommend the following preventive actions:

- Avoid all contact with wild animals

- Vaccinate all cats and dogs against rabies
- Do not sleep with open unscreened windows or doors
- If bats are seen inside the house or other structure, close off the area and contact animal control. Once the bat(s) have been removed, close off any areas allowing entrance into the house.
- Do not leave pet food outside where it will attract wild animals.
- Immediately wash all animal bites with soap and water, being sure to flush the wound well, then contact your doctor
- Report all animal bites to OC Animal Care
- Report stray animals to OC Animal Care

Potential exposure to a bat or other wild animal should be reported to Orange County Public Health Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180. To report a bat in your home, an animal bite, or a stray animal, contact OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848.

More information about rabies is available at the Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
August 23, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
714-834-2178
dthompson@ochca.com

High Temperatures Bring Risk of Heat-Related Illnesses

(Santa Ana) - Many inland Orange County communities are expected to record high temperatures of over 90° this week, increasing the risk of heat related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heat stroke for those who are more sensitive to the heat.

Prolonged exposure to excessive temperatures may cause serious conditions like heat exhaustion or heat stroke and can even be fatal. Symptoms of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, muscle cramps, weakness, headache, nausea or vomiting and dizziness. Warning signs of heat stroke may include an extremely high body temperature, unconsciousness, confusion, hot and dry skin (no sweating), a rapid, strong pulse, and a throbbing headache. If symptoms of heat stroke occur, immediately call for medical assistance. Move the person to a shady area and begin cooling their body with water.

Recommended precautions to prevent heat related illnesses include:

- Drink plenty of water; don't wait until you are thirsty.
- Wear light, loose-fitting clothing.
- Avoid unnecessary sun exposure; wear a hat, preferably with a wide brim, when in the sun and use sunscreen.
- Avoid unnecessary exertion if you are outside or in non-air conditioned buildings. If you are working outdoors, take frequent rest and refreshment breaks in a shaded area.
- Never leave children, elderly people or pets unattended in closed cars or other vehicles.
- Check on those who are at high risk to make sure they are staying cool – including seniors who live alone, people with heart or lung disease, and young children.
- Stay cool indoors - if your home is not air conditioned, visit public facilities such as shopping malls and libraries to stay cool.

For more information on heat related illnesses, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
September 2, 2010

Contact: Nicole Stanfield
(714) 834-2178
nstanfield@ochca.com

FREE PERTUSSIS BOOSTER VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE AT WEEKEND CLINICS

(Santa Ana) - The Health Care Agency is providing free pertussis, or whooping cough, booster vaccinations at 14 special weekend clinics throughout the community. Young infants are particularly vulnerable, so it is important that family members and caregivers of infants, including parents, grandparents, siblings, childcare providers and health care workers, be vaccinated.

"All residents should make sure they are up to date with their pertussis vaccination, but it is particularly important for adults and children who are in contact with infants under one year of age to receive their pertussis vaccine," stated Dr. Nancy Bowen, Medical Officer for HCA Public Health Services.

Statewide there are seven times the number of whooping cough cases reported this year compared to the same period last year. As of August 28, 2010, Orange County has 232 cases, compared to 10 during the same period last year. Nearly 40% of these cases are infants under 6 months of age. No deaths have been reported in Orange County residents in 2010.

Pertussis is a serious respiratory disease that is highly contagious and can cause death among infants. Routine childhood vaccination usually starts at two months of age, but can be started as early as 6 weeks of age, and infants are not fully protected until 6 months of age. It is critical that those in close contact with infants who are too young to be fully immunized are up to date with their pertussis vaccination. The vaccination is not fully effective for up to two weeks, so people planning to have close contact with an infant, including pregnant women, should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

The vaccine is widely available from medical providers, including community clinics, throughout Orange County. People whose medical providers do not have vaccine, do not have medical insurance, or whose insurance does not cover the vaccine, may obtain vaccine free of charge from the Health Care Agency on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday at the HCA 17th Street Clinic in Santa Ana. Free weekend vaccination clinics for person 10 years or older who have contact with infants under one year of age will be held at the 17th Street Clinic in Santa Ana and Northgate Market locations throughout the county during the month of September. Persons under 10 years of age should receive their vaccination series as scheduled from their medical provider or contact the HCA Health Referral Line at (800) 564-8448.

Free Pertussis Booster Vaccination Clinics:

HCA Public Health Weekend Clinics

Saturdays, September 11 & 25

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

1725 W. 17th Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Learning Center (trailer in rear parking lot)

Northgate Markets Weekend Clinics

Fridays, September 3, 10, 17 & 24

1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Northgate Markets:

1120 S. Bristol Ave, Santa Ana

230 N. Harbor Blvd, Santa Ana

1623 W. 17th Street, Santa Ana

409 E. 4th Street, Santa Ana

Saturdays, September 4, 11, 18 & 25

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Northgate Markets:

1010 S. Main Street, Santa Ana

720 W. La Palma, Anaheim

770 S. Harbor, Anaheim

Sundays, September 5, 12, 19 & 26

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Northgate Markets:

580 W. La Habra Blvd, La Habra

6991 Lincoln, Buena Park

929 S. Euclid Street, Anaheim

For more information, please call the Health Referral Line at 800-564-8448 or visit www.ochealthinfo.com/pertussis for more information.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
September 3, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
714-834-2178
DThompson@ochca.com

ORANGE COUNTY REPORTS SEASON'S FIRST INFLUENZA CASE

(Santa Ana) - The Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA) has confirmed the first case of influenza signaling the coming influenza season. While flu season in Orange County usually peaks at the end of December or beginning of January, it is not unusual to begin seeing influenza cases reported early in the season and it is not too early to get vaccinated. The first reported case was Influenza Type A however it is not the pandemic 2009 (H1N1) strain of influenza.

Flu shots are anticipated to be widely available from private physicians, pharmacies and other retail businesses in the community. Information about these locations and dates is available at <http://findaflushot.com>. Beginning in October, flu shots will also be available for eligible individuals through the Health Care Agency's annual influenza vaccination program. For information about the County's flu shot program call the **HCA Health Referral Line at 1-800-564-8448** or visit www.ochcahealthinfo.com.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that all persons 6 months of age and older be given flu shots every year and those in the highest priority groups should get their flu shots before the end of October. The highest priority groups include:

- Children 6-59 months of age
- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People who are morbidly obese
- Children and adolescents who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
- People with chronic diseases like heart disease, asthma, other lung disease or diabetes
- People with a health condition that suppresses their immune or respiratory system
- Residents of long-term care facilities that house people with chronic medical conditions
- Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children 0 to 59 months of age
- Health care workers

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
September 23, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
714-834-2178
dthompson@ochca.com

High Temperatures Bring Risk of Heat-Related Illnesses

(Santa Ana) - Many inland Orange County communities are expected to record high temperatures of over 90° this weekend and early next week, increasing the risk of heat related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heat stroke for those who are more sensitive to the heat.

Prolonged exposure to excessive temperatures may cause serious conditions like heat exhaustion or heat stroke and can even be fatal. Symptoms of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, muscle cramps, weakness, headache, nausea or vomiting and dizziness. Warning signs of heat stroke may include an extremely high body temperature, unconsciousness, confusion, hot and dry skin (no sweating), a rapid, strong pulse, and a throbbing headache. If symptoms of heat stroke occur, immediately call for medical assistance. Move the person to a shady area and begin cooling their body with water.

Recommended precautions to prevent heat related illnesses include:

- Drink plenty of water; don't wait until you are thirsty.
- Wear light, loose-fitting clothing.
- Avoid unnecessary sun exposure; wear a hat, preferably with a wide brim, when in the sun and use sunscreen.
- Avoid unnecessary exertion if you are outside or in non-air conditioned buildings. If you are working outdoors, take frequent rest and refreshment breaks in a shaded area.
- Never leave children, elderly people or pets unattended in closed cars or other vehicles.
- Check on those who are at high risk to make sure they are staying cool – including seniors who live alone, people with heart or lung disease, and young children.
- Stay cool indoors - if your home is not air conditioned, visit public facilities such as shopping malls and libraries to stay cool.

For more information on heat related illnesses, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.CDC.gov.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
October 12, 2010

Contact: Tricia Landquist
(714) 834-2178

Orange County Confirms First Human West Nile Virus Case of 2010

(Santa Ana) - An adult male has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) infection, becoming Orange County's first confirmed symptomatic human WNV case of 2010.

The man was hospitalized in late September and is now recovering at home. The man may have had multiple areas of exposure, including outside of Orange County. Statewide there are currently 66 cases with one WNV-related death reported. Last year, there were 4 confirmed symptomatic human cases of West Nile Virus infection reported in Orange County; no asymptomatic blood donors, or WNV-related deaths were reported in Orange County in 2009.

"While we are not seeing the level of West Nile Virus activity that we experienced last year, it is important for the community to recognize that West Nile Virus is endemic in Orange County, recurring every year during the summer months and continuing into the fall," said Dr. Hildy Meyers, Medical Director of Epidemiology. "The best way to avoid West Nile Virus infection is to take precautionary measures to avoid mosquito bites."

Recommended WNV precautions include:

- Emptying all standing water on your property to reduce areas in which mosquitoes may breed
- Making sure your window and door screens are in good condition
- Using insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or products containing IR3535, always following label directions
- Limiting outdoor activity at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors

Most people who become infected with West Nile Virus do not experience symptoms or become seriously ill. Up to 20% of those infected with West Nile Virus will experience symptoms of West Nile fever, which may include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, tiredness, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash. Anyone who develops the more serious symptoms of West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease, such as severe headaches, neck stiffness, confusion, muscle weakness, or vision loss should seek medical care immediately. People over 50 years of age and those with certain medical conditions are at increased risk of serious complications from WNV infection.

OC Confirms First Human WNV Case of 2010 (Page 2 of 2)

Information on mosquito control is available on the Orange County Vector Control District's website at www.ocvcd.org. Other websites with helpful information about West Nile Virus include:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
- State of California www.westnile.ca.gov
- Orange County Health Care Agency www.ochealthinfo.com

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
October 19, 2010

Contact: Larry Honeybourne
(714) 433-6015
lhoneybourne@ochca.com

OCEAN AND BAY RAIN ADVISORY

(Santa Ana) -

The Environmental Health Division of the Health Care Agency, advises swimmers that levels of bacteria can rise significantly in ocean and bay waters, close to storm drains, and the outlets of creeks and rivers during and after rainstorms. The elevated bacterial levels in the coastal ocean waters may continue for a period of at least 3 days depending upon the intensity of the rain and volume of the runoff. Swimmers should avoid Orange County coastal waters during this time, and beach users should avoid contact with any runoff on the beach.

Storm drains, creeks and rivers carry floodwaters and urban runoff to the ocean. Urban runoff may include fertilizers, road oils, animal wastes, and litter. During and after rain events, discharges may contain large amounts of bacteria from a variety of sources such as animal wastes and decomposing vegetation. Sewage is not normally present in the storm runoff since the sewer system is separate from the storm drain system. In the event of a sewage spill, the Environmental Health Division will quarantine the affected ocean or bay water area.

For information regarding Orange County ocean, bay or harbor postings and closures, please call (714) 433-6400 or visit our Web site at ocbeachinfo.com. To report a sewage spill, please call (714) 433-6419.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
October 21, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
714-834-2178
dthompson@ochca.com

Bat Found in San Juan Capistrano Tests Positive for Rabies

(Santa Ana) - A bat found on Village Road at Marina Road in San Juan Capistrano has tested positive for rabies. Anyone who had contact with a bat on Wednesday, October 20, 2010, before 4:30 pm in the vicinity of Village and Marina Roads is asked to call Orange County Health Care Agency Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 so that a nurse can evaluate the risk for rabies. Parents should interview their children who may have walked home from school or the nearby school bus stops.

Once a person begins showing signs and symptoms of rabies, the disease is nearly always fatal. For that reason, preventive treatment to stop the rabies virus from causing illness is given to anyone who may have been exposed to rabies. Medical assistance should be obtained promptly after an exposure so any wound can be cleaned and preventive treatment can be started. This treatment is safe and effective.

The rabies virus is found in an animal's saliva and is transmitted to people by a bite from a rabid animal. Although very rare, contamination of the eyes, mouth or an open wound by the saliva of a rabid animal can also transmit rabies. Most cases of human rabies in the United States in recent years have resulted from bat strains of rabies; bats have very small teeth, and their bites may go unnoticed.

HCA and OC Animal Care recommend the following preventive actions:

- Avoid all contact with wild animals
- Vaccinate all cats and dogs against rabies
- Do not sleep with open unscreened windows or doors

- If bats are seen inside the house or other structure, close off the area and contact animal control. Once the bat(s) have been removed, close off any areas allowing entrance into the house.
- Do not leave pet food outside where it will attract wild animals.
- Immediately wash all animal bites with soap and water, being sure to flush the wound well, then contact your doctor
- Report all animal bites to OC Animal Care
- Report stray animals to OC Animal Care

Potential exposure to a bat or other wild animal should be reported to Orange County Public Health Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180. To report a bat in your home, an animal bite, or a stray animal, contact OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848.

More information about rabies is available at the Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
October 21, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
714-834-2178
dthompson@ochca.com

Un murciélago encontrado en San Juan Capistrano Probado positivo para la rabia

(Santa Ana) - Un murciélago encontrado en el camino Village Road acerca de Marina Road en San Juan Capistrano se ha probado positivo para la rabia. Cualquier persona que tuvo contacto con un murciélago el miércoles 20 de octubre 2010 antes de las 4:30 p.m. en la vecindad de Village y Marina Road se le pide que llame al condado de Orange agencia del cuidado de salud epidemiología al 714-834-8180 para que una enfermera puede evaluar el riesgo para la rabia. Los padres deben entrevistar a sus niños que han caminado de la escuela o las paradas de autobús acerca de la escuela.

Cuando una persona comienza a mostrar signos y síntomas de la rabia, la enfermedad es casi siempre fatal. Por esa razón, el tratamiento preventivo para detener el virus de la rabia de causar la enfermedad se da a cualquier persona que pueda haber estado expuesta a la rabia. La asistencia médica se debe ser obtenida con prontitud después de una exposición así que cualquier herida puede ser limpiada y el tratamiento preventivo se puede iniciar. Este tratamiento es seguro y de manera efectiva.

El virus de la rabia se encuentra en la saliva de un animal y se transmite a las personas por una mordedura de un animal rabioso. Aunque sea muy raro, la contaminación de los ojos, la boca, una herida abierta por la saliva de un animal rabioso también pueden transmitir la rabia. La mayoría de los casos de rabia humana en los Estados Unidos en los últimos años han resultado a partir de cepas de murciélagos de la rabia; los murciélagos tienen dientes muy pequeños, y sus mordidas pueden ir inadvertidas.

HCA y OC Animal Care recomienda las acciones preventivas siguientes:

- Evitar el contacto con animales salvajes

- Vacunar todos los perros y gatos contra la rabia
- No dormir con las ventanas o puertas descubiertas o abiertas
- Si los murciélagos se ven adentro de la casa o otra estructura, ciérrase de la área y entre en contacto con el control de animal. Después que el murciélago(s) se han quitado, cierre todas las áreas que permita la entrada a la casa.
- No deje alimentos para los animales domésticos fuera en donde se atraen a los animales salvajes.
- Inmediatamente lave todas las mordeduras de animales con agua y jabón, estando seguro de enjuagar bien la herida, después entre en contacto con su doctor
- Divulga todas las mordeduras de animales a OC Animal Care
- Divulga animales salvajes a OC Animal Care

La exposición potencial a un murciélago u otro animal salvaje debe ser reportada al condado de Orange servicios de salud pública Epidemiología al (714) 834-8180. Para reportar un murciélago en su casa, una mordedura de animal, o animal salvaje, comuníquese con OC Animal Care al (714) 935-6848.

Para más información acerca de la rabia está disponible en los centros para el control de enfermedad el sitio web en <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
October 21, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
714-834-2178
dthompson@ochca.com

Thông Báo Báo Chí Khẩn

Tìm Thấy Dơi Mắc Bệnh Đại ở San Juan Capistrano

(Santa Ana) - Một con dơi được tìm thấy trên đường Village (Village Road) ngay khúc đường Marina (Marina Road) ở San Juan Capistrano đã thử nghiệm thấy bệnh đại. Vậy bất cứ ai đã tiếp xúc với một con dơi vào thứ tư ngày 20 tháng 10 năm 2010, trước 4 giờ 30 phút trong khu vực lân cận của đường Village và Marina được yêu cầu gọi cho Cơ Quan Y Tế Khoa Dịch Tễ (Orange County Health Care Agency Epidemiology) ở 714-834-8180 để một y tá có thể thẩm định sự nguy hiểm đối với căn bệnh đại. Phụ huynh cần hỏi rõ con em của mình, những em đã đi bộ đến trường hay đi bộ đến những địa điểm có xe buýt.

Khi một người thấy dấu hiệu của bệnh đại phác tác, thì hầu như căn bệnh đã đến mức gây chết người. Vì lý do đó, sự ngăn ngừa chữa trị hầu chặn đứng vi khuẩn bệnh đại cần được thể hiện nơi bất cứ ai có thể đã bị rơi vào tình trạng có thể bị lây nhiễm vi khuẩn bệnh đại. Ai đã bị đặt vào tình trạng có thể bị lây nhiễm bệnh đại cần nhận được sự trợ giúp y tế ngay lập tức để được khử trùng bất cứ vết trầy xước nào và để có thể được bắt đầu việc chữa trị nhằm ngăn căn bệnh. Đây là sự chữa trị rất hữu hiệu và an toàn.

Vi khuẩn bệnh đại được tìm thấy trong nước bọt (nước miếng) của một thú vật và được truyền qua người khi con người bị thú vật cắn. Mặc dầu rất hiếm khi xảy ra, nước bọt của một con thú bị bệnh đại cũng có thể lan truyền bệnh đại qua mắt, miệng hay nơi vết loét (vết thương bị hở). Trong những năm trước đây, tại Hoa Kỳ hầu hết bệnh đại nơi con người do đều dơi bị mắc bệnh đại; dơi có những chiếc răng nhỏ xíu, và những vết cắn của chúng có thể không được để ý đến.

Cơ Quan Y Tế và Văn Phòng Chăm Sóc Thú Vật (OC Animal Care) quận Cam đưa ra những biện pháp ngăn ngừa sau đây:

- Tránh tiếp xúc với tất cả các loại thú rừng.
- Chích ngừa bệnh dại cho tất cả chó, mèo.
- Đừng mở những những cánh cửa sổ và cửa ra vào không có lắp cửa lưới lúc ngủ.
- Nếu thấy những con dơi ở trong nhà hay nơi những kiến trúc khác, ngăn khu vực lại và liên lạc với văn phòng kiểm soát thú vật. Một khi dơi (hay những con dơi) đã được di dời, đóng lại bất cứ những chỗ dơi có thể bay vào nhà.
- Đừng để thức ăn của thú cưng bên ngoài sẽ dẫn dụ thú hoang tìm đến.
- Lập tức rửa sạch tất cả những vết thú cắn với xà phòng và nước, nhớ rửa vết thương thật kỹ, sau đó liên lạc với bác sĩ.
- Báo cáo tất cả những vết thú cắn với Văn Phòng Chăm Sóc Thú Vật Quận Cam.
- Báo cáo với Văn Phòng Chăm Sóc Thú Vật những thú bị thất lạc.

Cần báo cáo với Chương Trình Y Tế Công Cộng - Khoa Dịch Tễ của quận Cam (Orange County Public Health Epidemiology) ở số (714) 834-8180 khi có tiềm năng tiếp xúc với một con dơi hay một thú hoang nào khác. Để báo cáo một con dơi ở trong nhà quý vị, một vết thú cắn, hay một con thú bị thất lạc, liên lạc với Văn Phòng Chăm Sóc Thú Vật Quận Cam ở số (714) 935-6848.

Cần biết thêm chi tiết sẵn có về bệnh dại xin vào trang mạng của Trung Tâm Kiểm Soát Bệnh Dịch tại địa chỉ mạng <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
October 22, 2010

Contact: Nicole Stanfield
Deanne Thompson
(714) 834-2178

FREE SEASONAL FLU SHOTS ON OCTOBER 29

(Santa Ana) - Free flu shots for adults and children will be offered October 29 at three Orange County locations as part of a continuing series of emergency exercises testing the county's ability to provide medication to the community during a Public Health emergency.

Free flu shots will be offered October 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at:

- **Church of Jesus Christ – Latter Day Saints**
440 North Loara Street, Anaheim, CA 92805
- **Saint Nicholas Catholic Church**
24252 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637
- **Norman P. Murray Community & Senior Center**
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92692

For more information see <http://healthdisasteroc.org/events/freeflushot>.

Flu shots will be provided at no cost to adults and children two years of age and older on a first-come first-served basis. Anaheim and Mission Viejo locations will offer both walk-up and drive-through flu shots; Laguna Woods will offer drive-through shots. To receive a flu shot, participants should be feeling well on the day of the flu shot exercise and must complete a brief health screening to ensure they can safely receive a flu vaccine.

“Last year’s seasonal flu shot campaign was a tremendous success, we vaccinated over 3,800 community members,” said Dr. Eric Handler, County Health Officer. “I encourage you to come receive a free seasonal flu shot, and help the County and community partners improve our capabilities to respond in the event of a public health emergency.”

Among the organizations helping to stage the flu shot clinics are the cities of Anaheim, Laguna Woods and Mission Viejo; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; Saint Nicholas Catholic Church; Norman P. Murray Community & Senior Center; Orange County Health Care Agency; Anaheim Fire and Police Departments; Orange County Sheriff’s Department; Orange County Fire Authority; Anaheim and Laguna Woods Community Emergency Response Teams; Mission Viejo Community Emergency Preparedness Academy; Medical Reserve Corps; Care, Doctor’s and Medix Ambulance Services; Children and Families Commission of Orange County; North and South County Community College

Districts; and the CSU Fullerton, Stanbridge College, Saddleback College and Cypress College Schools of Nursing.

The Orange County Health Care Agency received the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) “Model Practice Award” in 2010 for demonstrating exemplary and proactive qualities in response to local health emergencies. The Orange County Health Care Agency was one of 24 nationwide to receive the “Model Practice Award” in 2010. “We are proud to receive this award, it is evidence of our commitment to develop responsive and innovative public health programs that help prepare our community for public health emergencies. Join us in our preparedness efforts by coming out October 29 for a free flu shot,” said Dr. Handler.

An annual flu shot is the best way to prevent seasonal influenza. Some groups, such as older adults, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at higher risk for serious influenza complications. This year’s seasonal flu shot includes H1N1, eliminating the need for multiple flu shots.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
November 10, 2010

Contact: Nicole Stanfield
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Orange County Emergency Medical Services to Implement Electronic Medical Records

(Santa Ana) - Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) is transitioning from paper patient care records to a comprehensive Web-based information management system designed to enhance quality of care. When completed next year, the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS) will allow near real-time data collection, provide a central location for all records, and automate the licenses and certifications of medical personnel and specialty hospitals.

“OC-MEDS will improve patient care, facilitate the early detection of disease outbreaks, and greatly enhance our ability to assess the OCEMS System,” stated Sam Stratton, MD, EMS Medical Director for the Orange County Health Care Agency.

OCEMS developed OC-MEDS in collaboration with local hospitals, fire departments, and ambulance companies to meet the dynamic needs of the Orange County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. Data collected through OC-MEDS can be used for quality assurance, skills tracking, health education and outreach, system improvement, and disease outbreak monitoring. Funding for the software developed by ImageTrend, Inc. was provided by a grant from the Anaheim/Santa Ana Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The project also includes the purchase of mobile data devices to be used by paramedics to document patient care at the time of service. Funding for the Mobile Devices was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
November 30, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
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2010 World AIDS Day Commemorated December 1st Free HIV Testing Available

(Santa Ana) – World AIDS Day is an international day of reflection to remember those who have died and those living with HIV disease. To commemorate World AIDS Day, a coalition of HIV prevention, treatment and support agencies will host an event to increase awareness about HIV and AIDS and offer free HIV testing on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at Cobblestone Park located on Pacific Coast Highway and Broadway in Laguna Beach from 3-7 p.m. Free HIV testing will be offered from 3-5 p.m. and a candlelight vigil will take place from 5:30- 7 p.m.

“The national observance of World AIDS Day serves as a reminder that we must do all we can to prevent the spread of HIV,” said Dr. Eric Handler, Orange County’s Public Health Officer. In the United States, every nine minutes someone becomes infected with HIV, and every 36 minutes someone dies from HIV or AIDS (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that more than one million people are living with HIV in the United States. One in five (21%) of those people living with HIV is unaware of their infection (CDC, 2010). Despite increases in the total number of people living with HIV in the US in recent years, the annual number of new HIV infections has remained relatively stable. Orange County has the 4th highest prevalence of persons living with AIDS of all 58 counties in California (California Department of Public Health, 2008).

For more information about World AIDS Day, please visit www.aids.gov/world-aids-day/. Information about HIV services in Orange County can be found by calling (714) 834-8711, and information and/or questions about HIV testing can be found at www.cdcpin.org/ca/.

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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
December 1, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson
(714) 834-2178
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COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
December 2, 2010

Contact: Deanne Thompson or
Nicole Stanfield
714-834-2178

\$1.3 MILLION APPROVED TO EXPAND ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY CLINICS

(Santa Ana) - The Orange County Board of Supervisors has approved \$900,000 in funding to improve the County's community clinic system. The one-time allocation of Tobacco Settlement Revenue (TSR) funds will be used to expand direct health care services to unfunded medically indigent patients in Orange County.

In addition, the Health Care Agency partnered with the Irvine Health Foundation to distribute \$400,000 made available to the Foundation through the sale of Anaheim Memorial Medical Center (AHMC). These funds will be used to expand community clinic services in the geographic area previously served by AHMC.

It is anticipated that the investment of TSR funds will result in improved and expanded access to medical and dental care, decreased use of hospital emergency rooms and improved overall health for low income uninsured persons. Funds will be used for construction and expansion of clinic facilities, purchase of medical equipment, and funding for additional staff, providing additional medical services and also supporting the development of small satellite clinics into fully-licensed community clinics. Funding was distributed among four community providers: Friends of Family Health Center (\$275,000); St. Jeanne de Lestonnac Free Clinic (\$ 225,000); Vietnamese Community of Orange County, Inc. (\$200,000); and Central City Community Health Center (\$200,000).

The \$400,000 in one-time funds available through the Irvine Health Foundation was awarded for indigent health care to Vietnamese Community of Orange County, Inc.(VNCOC). VNCOC was selected to receive the full \$400,000 based on their proposal to provide the highest number of services in the designated area.

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