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COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY

May 6, 2009

TO: Supervisor Patricia Bates, Fifth District, Chair
Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District, Vice-Chair
Supervisor John M. W. Moorlach, Second District
Supervisor Bill Campbell, Third District
Supervisor Chris Norby, Fourth District

SUBJECT: H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Investigation - Update 9

To keep you apprised of Health Care Agency (HCA) activities during the current H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) outbreak, we will be providing periodic updates to the Board of Supervisors.

Mexico and International Update as of Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 8 a.m.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is reporting 1,516 H1N1 Flu cases in 22 countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Alert Level remains at Phase 5. The WHO is reporting 822 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection in Mexico, including 29 deaths.

National and State Update as of Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 8 a.m.

There are 99 confirmed and 119 probable H1N1 Flu (swine flu) cases in California. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 403 confirmed H1N1 cases in 38 states. The first H1N1 related death of a U.S. citizen was reported yesterday in Texas. The 33-year-old teacher from Harlingen, TX reportedly had "chronic, underlying health conditions."

The CDC and Department of Health and Human Services announced Tuesday significant revisions to their guidance on school and childcare facility closures. School closure is now not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1) and, in general, is not advised unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function. Schools that were closed based on previous interim CDC guidance related to this outbreak may reopen. At this time, CDC recommends the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in schools is to focus on early identification of ill students and staff, staying home when ill, and good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. Decisions about school closure should be at the discretion of local authorities based on local considerations, including public concern and the impact of school absenteeism and staffing shortages.

Members, Board of Supervisors

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Local Updates as of Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 8 a.m.

Orange County has two (2) confirmed and ten (10) probable H1N1 Flu cases. Following the CDC's revision of school closure guidelines, a decision was made to allow Fred Moiola Elementary School in Fountain Valley to re-open effective Wednesday, May 6, 2009. School officials began notifying parents on Tuesday afternoon.

The Health Care Agency (HCA) completed delivery of anti-viral medications to local hospitals Tuesday. Community clinics will also receive their allocation of the anti-virals this week. The medicines are being pre-positioned to care for symptomatic cases and close contacts as needed. HCA is also obtaining a cache of anti-virals formulated for pediatric patients.

Public Health Epidemiology reported a reduced call volume from providers on Tuesday. Disease surveillance efforts are focusing on: (1) severe illness, in order to detect any changes in the virulence or epidemiology of the virus; (2) outbreaks or clusters, and; (3) cases among individuals at increased risk of complications.

HCA's Health Emergency Operations Center (HEOC) is activated to Level One, as is the Operational Area (OA) EOC at Loma Ridge. Both the HCA Emergency Medical Services and Public Health Disease Control Departmental Operations Centers are also activated.

HCA continues to coordinate efforts with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As the nature of this situation has changed, HCA's updates to the Board will no longer be issued on a daily basis. Future updates will be provided when there is a significant change in the situation or if there is significant information to report. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at (714) 834-6021.



David L. Riley, Interim Director

DLR:dwt(09-117)

cc: Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer
Stephen Dunivent, Deputy CEO