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# COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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### FOR INFORMATION ONLY

November 24, 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:** Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza - Update 22

The Health Care Agency continues to coordinate local H1N1 surveillance and response activities with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), according to guidance from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The following information is provided to keep your Honorable Board apprised of the Health Care Agency's (HCA) activities in response to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza.

#### Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Status

Statewide, the H1N1 virus has now resulted in 6,069 hospitalizations and 318 deaths since April 2009. Orange County has reported 36 deaths and 179 intensive care unit cases. Most of the fatalities in Orange County have underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk for severe illness and complications and range in age from less than one year old to 92 years old.

The CDPH estimates that more than three million H1N1 infections have occurred among Californians from April through October of this year; and H1N1 continues to be the overwhelmingly dominant strain of influenza circulating in the state. Some recent national media reports have indicated illness due to H1N1 may be declining; however, California and the nation continue to see widespread influenza activity at levels higher than usual for this time of year.

#### Vaccine Supply

There have been significant increases in vaccine availability in the last two weeks. CDPH has distributed 6.25 million doses of H1N1 influenza vaccine to providers throughout the state and approximately 575,000 of those doses have been directed to providers in Orange County. A second phase of 6.25 million doses is scheduled to ship to providers in California by early January, with Orange County providers expected to receive about 434,000 additional doses. CDPH is working with local health departments to prioritize shipments in this phase.

## Members, Board of Supervisors

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### Vaccination Activity

While vaccine availability is improving, supplies are still limited and therefore federal and state health officials are recommending that vaccine be prioritized for use with the following five target groups: pregnant women, persons who live with or provide care for infants aged less than 6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers), health-care and emergency medical services personnel, persons aged 6 months through 24 years, and persons aged 25 through 64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

Based on the anticipated additional doses being shipped to providers in December, HCA will be pursuing the following strategies to provide vaccine to the five target groups:

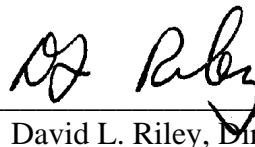
- HCA will expand its appointment only clinic at its 17<sup>th</sup> Street facility in Santa Ana (currently for pregnant women and California Children's Services clients only) to include all five target groups;
- school based vaccination clinics will be able to provide vaccine to all children, not just to those with underlying health conditions; and
- HCA will continue to work with the provider community on redistribution of vaccine to meet emerging needs.

With the increased availability of vaccine in the community, members of the public are encouraged to check with their medical providers or the vaccine locator at [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov) for vaccine availability. Beginning Monday, November 30, Orange County residents in the five target groups, who do not have access to H1N1 vaccinations through their medical provider, can call the Health Referral line at 1-800-564-8448 to schedule an appointment Monday through Saturday to receive the vaccine.

It continues to be important to take simple steps to reduce transmission and illness: cover your cough and sneeze with tissue, a sleeve or your elbow; wash hands frequently and use alcohol based hand sanitizers; and stay home if you are ill. Individuals at risk of medical complications should notify their health care provider if they become ill and seek treatment early if directed.

The most current local information for the public is available on the HCA web site, [www.ochealthinfo.com](http://www.ochealthinfo.com). The public may also call HCA's Health Referral Line at 1-800-564-8448 for information.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact David Souleles, Deputy Agency Director for Public Health Services, at 714-834-3882.



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David L. Riley, Director

DLR:dms:09-214

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