

Countywide Services Agency

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For Immediate Release

Fall Flu Season Update

(Sacramento, CA) – The initial doses of H1N1 Flu vaccine coming to Sacramento County from the federal government will be direct-shipped to medical providers and are expected to arrive early next week. The H1N1 vaccine is just starting to be distributed nationwide and should begin to be available in doctors' offices in the Sacramento region.

“The initial quantities of the vaccine will be very limited, and the California Department of Public Health has directed that all of it be used to immunize children who 2 years old to just under 10 years of age.” said Glennah Trochet, M.D., Sacramento County Health Officer. “The vaccine will be sent directly to medical providers who see this population.”

Trochet said that Sacramento County Public Health will conduct its own H1N1 flu clinics later this fall when the H1N1 vaccine will be available in larger quantities. “Our H1N1 clinics are designed to be a ‘safety net’ for the community. Most people should get the vaccination from their regular provider,” Trochet stated. County H1N1 flu clinics are expected to start sometime in November and continue into January. They will be held around the county at many venues that are convenient to the public. A complete list of dates, times and locations will be released when the clinic schedule is finalized.

(Note to media: Because the H1N1 vaccine is being direct-shipped to healthcare providers in Sacramento County, we will not be providing photos, B-roll or opportunities to view the product.)

In the meantime, Sacramento County will launch its series of 13 seasonal flu clinics at 10:00 AM on Friday, October 9th, with a drive-through clinic at Sunrise Mall in Citrus Heights. “Drivers won’t even have to step out of their cars. Just roll down the window and roll up your sleeve,” said Sacramento County Public Health’s Immunization Assistance Program coordinator Lynnan Svensson. “It’s all completed in a matter of minutes and you’re back out on the road.”

It’s important to protect yourself against the influenza. According to the Centers for Disease Control, every year up to 20% of the population gets the flu, resulting in more than 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths nationwide.

“There is plenty of seasonal flu vaccine available, and we want everyone to get vaccinated, but there

are a few target groups who really need to make sure they're protected from the flu." said Dr. Trochet.

Those groups include:

- Adults 50 years of age and older
- Children 6 months - 18 years of age
- Residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- People with chronic medical conditions
- Women who will be pregnant during the flu season
- Caregivers and household members of the high-risk groups identified above
- Healthcare workers

There will be a \$10.00 charge for each flu vaccination administered. A MediCare identification card will be required for MediCare billing. No one will be refused service due to age or economic status at any of the Sacramento County Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinics.

For more information on County-sponsored flu clinics, call (916) 875-7053 or visit our web site at www.SCPH.com. A list of Sacramento County flu clinics has been attached with locations, dates, and times. To find immunization locations operated by other health care providers, please visit www.FluClinicLocator.org.

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