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COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY

May 5, 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 8

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

Mexico and International Update as of Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 8 a.m.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is reporting 1,124 H1N1 Flu cases in 21 countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Alert Level remains at Phase 5. "We do not know how long we will have until we move to Phase 6," said Margaret Chan, head of the United Nations agency. "We are not there yet. The criteria will be met when we see another region outside North America showing very clear evidence of community-level transmission."

Mexico is still reporting 590 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 25 deaths. Mexican officials said Monday that they would allow most of the nation's businesses to reopen this week. In Mexico City, restaurants will reopen on Wednesday. Churches and museums will reopen Thursday, but bars, nightclubs, cinemas and theaters will remain closed until further notice, according to The Associated Press. Baja California authorities have confirmed 11 cases as of Monday evening – 10 in Mexicali and one in Ensenada, with no fatalities.

National and State Update as of Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 8 a.m.

There are 69 confirmed and 121 probable H1N1 Flu (swine flu) cases in California. The California Department of Public Health is now conducting confirmatory testing for H1N1 Flu specimens.

In the U.S., there are 279 cases in 36 states. Only one death has been reported (a 22-month old in Texas).

Members, Board of Supervisors

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Local Updates as of Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 8 a.m.

Orange County has two (2) confirmed and nine (9) probable H1N1 Flu cases. Media interest remained high Monday after the closure of an elementary school in Fountain Valley associated with a probable H1N1 case. Surveillance activities continue to identify any other potential H1N1 cases associated with the school.

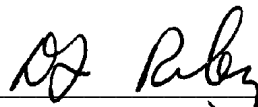
The Health Care Agency (HCA) is implementing its plan to distribute a portion of the cache of anti-viral medicines to local hospitals and community clinics, with deliveries expected to be completed this week. The medicines are being pre-positioned to care for symptomatic cases and close contacts as needed. The remaining anti-viral medicines will be stored in a secure location for future distribution as needed.

Public Health Epidemiology has established revised priorities for surveillance and testing, shifting from efforts to detect all cases to 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).

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at (714) 834-6021.



David L. Riley, Interim Director

DLR:dwt(09-115)

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