



*Excellence
Integrity
Service*

COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DAVID L. RILEY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

MAILING ADDRESS:
405 W. 5th STREET, 7th FLOOR
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

TELEPHONE: (714) 834-6021
FAX: (714) 834-3660
E-MAIL: driley@ochca.com

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

June 11, 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: Novel H1N1 Influenza Investigation - Update 15

Today the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the Pandemic Alert Level from Phase 5 to Phase 6. The WHO pandemic phase designation is based on geographic spread of the influenza virus, not on the severity of the illness. Phase 6 indicates that a new flu virus has emerged, it spreads easily from one human to another, the disease is found in many countries, and that a global pandemic is underway.

The Health Care Agency (HCA) is already responding to local cases of novel H1N1 influenza, so the change in phase does not affect our response. While we have seen a number of hospitalized cases and one death in Orange County, for most people who contract novel H1N1 influenza the symptoms have been mild. We will continue to monitor the situation, perform laboratory tests, provide recommendations to the public, schools, and clinicians, and implement measures to protect the public's health.

Although the virus continues to spread to other countries health officials are not seeing significant changes in the virus in samples from various countries. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other programs in the Federal government are planning for what may happen in the fall with novel H1N1 influenza and preparing to have a vaccine tested and ready for distribution if an immunization campaign becomes necessary.

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



David L. Riley, Interim Director

DLR:dwt(09-143)

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