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COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY

August 19, 2009

TO: Supervisor Patricia Bates, Fifth District, Chair
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Supervisor Bill Campbell, Third District
Supervisor Chris Norby, Fourth District

SUBJECT: Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza - Update 17

The Health Care Agency continues to be actively involved in novel H1N1 influenza surveillance and response activities in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The following information is provided regarding current disease status and planning efforts.

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Status

Novel H1N1 influenza infections continue to create higher levels of influenza-like illness than is normal for this time of year. CDC estimates that between April and June 2009, more than one million cases of pandemic novel H1N1 influenza occurred in the United States. As of August 13, 2009, 7,511 total novel H1N1 influenza hospitalizations and 477 total deaths have been reported to the CDC by state and local public health departments. In California, 1,057 hospitalizations and 104 novel H1N1-associated deaths have been reported; Orange County has reported 193 hospitalizations and 16 novel H1N1-associated deaths.

Illness associated with the novel H1N1 virus continues to look similar to seasonal influenza with the highest risk of complications being among those with other medical conditions and pregnant women. CDC anticipates that the novel H1N1 virus will co-circulate with regular seasonal influenza viruses during the coming influenza season.

Novel H1N1 Vaccination Planning

The federal government plans to have 280 million doses of novel H1N1 vaccine available this flu season, with the first 40 million doses available in mid-October. The vaccine is in clinical trials now to assure its safety and its efficacy against the novel H1N1 virus; it is thought at this time that two doses will be needed to confer immunity to the virus. Vaccination will be voluntary and provided at no cost, though the private sector is not prohibited from charging an administration fee.

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Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza - Update 17

August 19, 2009

Page 2

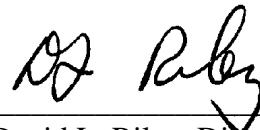
The CDC has recommended that initial vaccination efforts for novel H1N1 focus on five key populations: pregnant women; people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age; healthcare and emergency services personnel; all people 6 months through 24 years of age; and people 25 through 64 years of age with underlying health conditions which put them at risk for influenza complications. If vaccine becomes available in limited quantities, CDC has provided additional guidance for further prioritizing within the target populations.

States will be responsible for distribution of the federal novel H1N1 vaccine supply. State planning calls for private and public community providers to obtain vaccine directly from the State. The Health Care Agency is working with the CDPH and local partners, including hospitals, clinics and schools, to develop local distribution plans that assure timely access to vaccine for all priority populations.

Funding

Federal funding will be allocated through the State to local health departments to support three areas of novel H1N1 influenza response activities: vaccine distribution/administration and anti-viral management; epidemiology and laboratory support; and hospital surge preparedness planning. Orange County has already been notified that it will receive a total of \$1,750,269 for these activities. California will receive an additional \$15,804,211 to further support vaccine planning; it is anticipated that 70% of those funds will be distributed to local health departments.

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



David L. Riley, Director

DLR:dwt(09-175)

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