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COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY

October 21, 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 19

Public interest in the availability of H1N1 influenza vaccine has increased significantly in the past week in anticipation of the arrival of additional H1N1 vaccine. The following information is to keep you apprised of key local activities.

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Status

The Health Care Agency (HCA) remains actively involved in 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 official 2009-10 influenza season has begun and surveillance efforts have increased to monitor for increased influenza activity for both H1N1 and other influenza types. There are reports of increased physician visits and school absenteeism due to influenza-like illness in Orange County. Influenza that is circulating is predominantly H1N1, with little evidence of other influenza types circulating at this time. No significant changes have been seen regarding severity of illness. There has been no change in total H1N1 associated deaths in Orange County since our last Board communication, with the number of deaths remaining at 22 as of October 18, 2009.

Vaccination Planning

HCA continues to work with CDPH to distribute H1N1 vaccine to Orange County providers. This is being done in coordination with the CDC which has arranged for the production of an estimated 195 million doses of vaccine before the end of the year. The first allocation of H1N1 vaccine has been shipped to providers in Orange County.

The initial shipment contained approximately 29,000 doses of H1N1 FluMist (nasal) vaccine. Because of the short supply and the nature of the vaccine, it has been directed to private providers that can reach two initial populations: healthy children 2-18 years-old and healthy caregivers of infants under 6 months.

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Based upon information provided by CDPH, by mid November approximately 500,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine should be shipped to Orange County private and public health care providers who have ordered vaccine. CDC indicates that information on vaccine production and delivery is dynamic and subject to change as new information becomes available. Until sufficient supplies arrive to provide vaccinations to all who want it, the CDC recommends that vaccine be directed to the following groups:

- pregnant women,
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- healthcare and emergency medical services personnel,
- persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age, and
- people ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk of H1N1 influenza complications because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

H1N1 vaccinations will be available through many avenues as supplies increase:

- approximately 10% of the vaccine supply will be available through Kaiser Permanente for its members,
- more than 1,000 private health care providers will receive vaccine for their patients and staff,
- many schools, colleges and universities will be offering onsite vaccinations for their student populations,
- many community clinics will have vaccinations available to the public, and
- several hospitals, cities, community service centers, and HCA will be offering public vaccination clinics.

The primary distribution point for the vaccine is the private sector and we encourage the public to check with their healthcare providers for availability. Public Health affiliated clinics will begin in November and HCA will post those opportunities on our website at www.ochealthinfo.com as vaccine supplies are confirmed. The public may also contact the HCA Health Referral line at 1-800-564-8448 for more information on clinic schedules.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Due to production of H1N1 vaccine, there are delays in the production and delivery of seasonal influenza vaccine to providers. This has resulted in a shortage of vaccine in the private and public sectors. Each year HCA's Immunization Assistance Program receives seasonal influenza vaccine from CDPH to provide vaccinations to target groups through our clinics and through community-based vaccination clinics with partners. At this time HCA does not have seasonal flu

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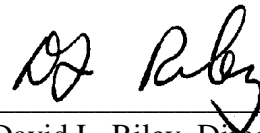
vaccine available to the public through our Public Health clinics. In addition, HCA has had to reduce supplies to community-based clinics. Additional adequate supplies of vaccine are not anticipated until the end of November which may result in the cancellation of pre-scheduled community-based vaccination clinics as local supplies are exhausted. We recognize that this is a difficult situation for the public and are working closely with our partners to manage the current limited supply and reschedule some clinics to December.

Public Information

The Orange County Register has published several articles on H1N1 and HCA's response activities. In addition HCA has worked with several other news outlets to provide information to the public.

The most current local information for the public is available on the HCA website, 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.



David L. Riley, Director

DLR:df:09-206

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