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# COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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### FOR INFORMATION ONLY

December 15, 2009

**TO:** Supervisor Patricia C. 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 23**

The Health Care Agency continues to coordinate local H1N1 surveillance and response activities with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), according to guidance from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The following information is provided to keep your Honorable Board apprised of the Health Care Agency's (HCA) activities in response to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza.

#### Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Status

Statewide, the H1N1 virus has now resulted in 7546 hospitalizations and 397 deaths since April 2009. As of December 12, Orange County has reported 49 deaths and 210 severe cases (including the reported deaths). Most of the fatalities in Orange County have underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk for severe illness and complications and range in age from less than one year old to 93 years old.

H1N1 continues to be the overwhelmingly dominant strain of influenza circulating in the United States. The CDC estimates that 47 million people (about 15% of the U.S. population) have been infected with H1N1. California and Orange County have seen a decrease in H1N1 illness indicators such as physician visits, hospital admissions and reported cases, though influenza activity is still widespread and higher than normal. Influenza is expected to still be circulating for months and additional waves of illness may come, especially if seasonal strains emerge in addition to H1N1.

#### Vaccine Supply

There continues to be significant increases in H1N1 vaccine across the country. Approximately 713,930 doses of vaccine have been shipped to providers in Orange County and we expect an

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additional 144,170 to be shipped by early January. The vast majority of healthcare providers who ordered vaccine have received some supply and retail pharmacies and other providers should have vaccine available by early January.

### H1N1 Vaccination Activity

HCA has been providing H1N1 vaccine to the CDC identified five target groups through an appointment only clinic at its 17<sup>th</sup> Street facility. To date, more than 9,070 have received vaccinations through the 17<sup>th</sup> Street facility, with as many as 998 served in a single day. Vaccine has also been increasingly available from private providers, hospitals, and community clinics.

Based on current vaccine supply levels in the county and on anticipated deliveries over the next few weeks, HCA believes there is sufficient supply to meet the needs of the CDC identified target groups and is lifting the recommended restriction on access to the H1N1 vaccine to allow all Orange County residents access to H1N1 vaccine. HCA will be sending out this message to health care providers and we encourage members of the public to check with their providers for access to the H1N1 vaccine.

On Wednesday December 16, HCA will expand its appointment only clinic at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street facility for any Orange County residents who do not have access to H1N1 vaccine through their medical provider. The public can call the Health Referral Line at 1-800-564-8448 to schedule an appointment Monday through Saturday to receive the vaccine. Vaccine will continue to be available from community clinics as well and a listing of those clinics offering vaccine can be found on the HCA website, [www.ochealthinfo.com](http://www.ochealthinfo.com).

### Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Due to delays in seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine production, HCA had to suspend community-based seasonal flu vaccinations in early November and was never able to open a seasonal influenza clinic at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street facility. Last Friday, HCA received an additional supply of seasonal vaccine enabling us to open a seasonal vaccination clinic. This walk-in clinic (no appointment necessary) will open Wednesday, December 16, and will provide free seasonal vaccinations to individuals targeted by the CDPH including people 50 years and older; adults with chronic medical conditions; pregnant women or women who will become pregnant during flu season; people living with persons at high risk for complications from influenza; healthy children 24-35 months; and children 3-18 years of age, in particular those receiving long-term aspirin therapy or those with chronic medical conditions.

As the holidays approach and even with the increased availability of seasonal and H1N1 vaccine, it continues to be important to take simple steps to reduce transmission and illness: cover your cough and sneeze with tissue, a sleeve or your elbow; wash hands frequently and use alcohol based hand sanitizers; and stay home if you are ill. Individuals at risk of medical complications should notify their health care provider if they become ill and seek treatment early if directed.

**Members, Board of Supervisors**

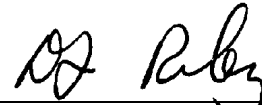
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The most current local information for the public is available on the HCA web site, [www.ochealthinfo.com](http://www.ochealthinfo.com). The public may also call HCA's Health Referral Line at 1-800-564-8448 for information.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact David Souleles, Deputy Agency Director for Public Health Services, at 714-834-3882.



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David L. Riley, Director

DLR:ds:09-218

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