



Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Press Release

Carmel Angelo
Director

Susana Wilson
Assistant Director

1120 S. Dora St.
Ukiah, CA 95482
Ph.: (707) 472-2600
Fax: 472-2335



**Adult and Older Adult
System of Care**

Susan Era, Director
747 S. State St.
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-7900
(707) 463-7979



**Children and Family
System of Care**

Mary Elliott, Director
860 N. Bush St.
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-5481
(707) 463-4043



**Community Health
Services**

Stacey Cryer, Director
1120 S. Dora St.
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 472-2600
(707) 472-2773



Administrative Offices

Staff Resources
Pat Meek, Manager
(707) 463-7722

Fiscal
Doug Gherkin, Chief
Financial Officer
(707) 463-7882



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stacey Cryer

Mendocino County Community Health Services (CHS) Branch Director

Phone: 472-2794

Email: cryers@co.mendocino.ca.us

NOVEL INFLUENZA UPDATE

Ukiah, CA - "Most cases of H1N1 throughout the County have been mild to moderate and have not required medical attention," reported Stacey Cryer, Director of Community Health Services (CHS). Community Health Services, a branch of the Health and Human Services Agency of Mendocino County, is responsible for the monitoring and surveillance of all communicable diseases within the County. "This virus has the potential of rapidly spreading throughout our population. While most cases will continue to be mild to moderate, we expect to have patients with severe symptoms and, as with any flu, fatalities," continued Cryer.

It is anticipated that Mendocino County will begin to see more cases of H1N1 as we move into the regular flu season, which typically begins in late October to November. In addition, school will be back in session in just a couple of weeks, and as with any assembly of people, the virus will have the potential to spread more quickly. Due to all of these factors, CHS activated its Departmental Operation Center (DOC) to monitor the health status of the community and plan for strategies that will help minimize the spread of the virus and the impact on our population. Many community partners are involved in the planning process, such as school districts, law enforcement, and healthcare providers. "The goal is to be prepared for various scenarios, from mild to severe illness throughout our County, and do all we can now to prevent the spread of this virus," stated Cryer.



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“We are asking that all County residents take the time to become familiar about the Novel Flu Virus; learn what the symptoms are and monitor yourself, your family and friends. Learn about all of the preventative measures including respiratory and personal hygiene (cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing and follow-up by hand washing) and possible vaccination. Additionally, take the time to understand if you are in a high risk category and what that means,” stated Carmel Angelo, Director of the Health & Human Services Agency. Information regarding symptoms, high risk categories, and preventative measures can be found at the websites listed below.

Cryer concluded, “Most importantly, if you are sick, isolate yourself to decrease the risk of exposing others. If we all work together as a community to keep ourselves safe and healthy, it will go a long way towards decreasing the spread of this potentially deadly virus.”

County Community Health Services www.co.mendocino.ca.us/ph

California Department of Public Health website <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>

Center for Disease Control & Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov>

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