



Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

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



Press Release

Date: 8/13/09

H1N1 Prevention in the Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thousands of local students will be returning to school this month, which could prompt the spread of the H1N1 flu virus.

The Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) officials are already taking steps to protect children through young adults from a possible outbreak. Stacey Cryer, Community Health Service Branch Director for HHSA stated, "We have been meeting with county school officials to discuss how to decrease the spread of H1N1 in our school age population and plan for mass vaccination clinics. Our biggest goal right now is to educate the public on what precautions they should be taking to prevent the spread of this potentially deadly virus," states Cryer.

Seasonal flu causes death in approximately 30,000 people each year. Since the initial outbreak of H1N1 last spring the virus has caused 104 deaths in California. It is important to take steps to prevent the spread of any flu virus by following these recommendations:

Stay home when you exhibit symptoms that include fever of 100° degrees or higher, body aches, cough, persistent nausea/vomiting and diarrhea. Routine cleaning and hygiene is an important aspect of reducing exposure to the virus. The virus can live on surfaces for 8-12 hours. Therefore, it's easy to become infected by touching your face after touching surfaces. Additionally, it is recommended that everyone frequently wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer. Also commonly used surfaces such as door knobs, tabletops, keyboards be disinfected on a regular basis with a cleaning product that kills viruses.

HHSA officials are encouraging parents to immunize all children age 6 months to 24 years of age for both the seasonal and H1N1 flu viruses. According to Mendocino County Public Health Officer, Dr. Marvin Trotter, "the seasonal flu vaccine will be available in September and I recommend that parents and caregivers consider immunizing their children as well as themselves. Contact your physician or local health department to obtain additional information regarding the seasonal flu vaccine."



Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

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



“The H1N1 flu vaccine is expected to be available in mid-October. According to the Center for Disease Control and the California Department of Public Health the H1N1 flu vaccine may need to be prioritized into groups that are at the greatest risk of contracting the H1N1 flu virus” stated Trotter.

According to Dr. Trotter those individuals at the greatest risk are children age 6 months to 24 years of age, pregnant women, household caregivers for children 0-6 months of age, healthcare and emergency medical services personnel or others who have health conditions associated with a higher risk of medical complications from the flu.

HHSA is already working with school districts to implement the following CDC recommendations regarding sick school age children:

- Children and staff with any flu like symptoms will be sent home.
- If children come to school with flu like symptoms they will be isolated until they can be picked up from school.
- Children or staff with flu like symptoms will not be able to return to school or work until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of a fever reducing medication and symptoms are resolved.

These recommendations may change based on the severity of the flu season or how the flu affects our community. For more information about the H1N1 flu visit the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency’s website at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/ph. For school district information regarding H1N1 go to the Mendocino County Office of Education’s website at www.mcoe.us

#####