



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

SECOND DEATH IN MENDOCINO COUNTY WITH H1N1 VIRUS

Ukiah, CA – A 44 year old Mendocino County woman died on September 1st with confirmed H1N1 influenza, stated Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Marvin Trotter. This woman is the second person in the County of Mendocino to die with the H1N1 virus. H1N1 was confirmed when she was admitted to Ukiah Valley Medical Center ten days prior to her death. This individual had significant underlying medical issues. She was one of the 12 prior confirmed cases. “Approximately half of the deaths with H1N1 have long standing or significant underlying medical issues. The highest risk categories for death appear to be obesity and asthma” stated Dr. Trotter.

As of September 1st, there have been 144 H1N1 related deaths in California and 1,663 hospitalized cases.

Yesterday the Governor’s Office released a press release stating, “State public health and emergency response officials have been planning for the further escalation of the disease and the rollout of a vaccination program. This includes expanding surveillance to detect increased pandemic activity, continuing development of clear guidelines for the public, working with local health departments to ensure health care facilities can respond to a surge in the need for patient care, and strengthening communication lines with medical providers and the public to get out information.”



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The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has stated that the H1N1 vaccine is scheduled to be allocated in mid October. The vaccination Web site, www.CalPanFlu.org, will be administered by CDPH (California Department of Public Health) and will allow doctors, clinics and others that want to provide vaccinations to register necessary information with the state to be able to get a supply of H1N1 vaccine. As vaccines are made available, CDPH will make the list of providers public on its Web site at www.cdph.ca.gov.

Everyday actions that can be taken to help protect against and prevent the spread of germs that cause the flu include:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

Public Health officials urge everyone to get their seasonal flu vaccinations. Stacey Cryer, Community Health Services Director said, "We expect to receive the seasonal flu vaccine by the end of September. The public should expect flu vaccination clinics by early October. Until then, the vaccine is available locally commercially at Safeway and Walgreens."

For more information go to:



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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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