



Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Press Release

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Adult and Older Adult

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Children and Family

System of Care
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**Community Health
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Pat Meek, Manager
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MENDOCINO COUNTY NOT YET RECEIVED H1N1 VACCINE

Ukiah, CA – Mendocino County was allocated 900 doses of the H1N1 (swine flu) FluMist vaccine based on orders submitted by county pediatricians and the County Community Health Services. To date, 400 of those doses have been received. “The 400 doses of FluMist were dispersed county wide to pediatric clinics and medical providers. The additional 500 doses are expected to be sent directly to providers as well. We do not know when those doses will be received,” stated Stacey Cryer, Director of Mendocino County Community Health Services (CHS).

Clinics, private providers, and pharmacies throughout the county used the State PanFlu online ordering system to submit orders for doses of the H1N1 vaccine. The state allocated 13,700 doses of the H1N1 vaccine to Mendocino County based on population. Initially, the county was told the first wave of those doses would be received in mid-October. “It’s now late October and our county has not received any vaccine other than the 400 FluMist doses. We have not been given any information from the State Department of Public Health or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding when we can expect to see the additional vaccines.”

When the H1N1 vaccine arrives in Mendocino County, residents should call their primary care physicians or specialists to get the vaccination. 90% of the vaccine in the county will be shipped directly to health care



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providers to dispense to county residents. “CHS will have a small amount of the vaccine to vaccinate those that do not have a primary care physician or fall through the cracks. We will be the safety net, not the main source of vaccinations,” stated Cryer.

When the H1N1 vaccine arrives in the county, CDC prioritization guidelines will be followed for administering vaccinations. The vaccine will be given to the following populations in the following order:

1. **Pregnant Women** because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated;
2. **Household contacts and caregivers of children less than 6 months of age** because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants younger than 6 months old might help protect infants by “cocooning” them from the virus;
3. **Healthcare and emergency medical service personnel** because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism in this population could reduce healthcare system capacity;
4. **All people aged 6 months to 24 years**
 - a. **Children from 6 months through 18 years of age** because cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in children who are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread, and
 - b. **Young adults 19-24 years of age** because many cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in these healthy



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young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population; and

5. Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with a higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

“We expect that most of the priority group population will be vaccinated with the county’s allocation of the vaccine. We are hoping that more vaccine, beyond our allotment, will be available to order some time in January. But there are no promises,” Cryer explained.

As of October 23, 2009 the CDC website reports that of the 14,070,900 allocated doses, 12,533,700 have been ordered and 11,282,200 of those doses were shipped on October 21st. The lag time between ordering, shipping and receiving an order is unknown.

Since July 2009, Mendocino County has had 25 H1N1 related hospitalizations and three H1N1 related deaths.

For questions regarding H1N1 and the vaccine, please call the county H1N1 hotline at 472-2300 and leave a message. CHS staff will return your call within 24 hours. You may also visit the CHS website at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/chs.

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