



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pandemic H1N1 (Swine) Flu Weekly Update for Santa Barbara County

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department will be providing weekly updates on the status of H1N1 flu in our County, including the availability of H1N1 vaccine, the number of new hospitalizations and deaths, and any other pertinent H1N1 related information.

H1N1 flu vaccine

A number of private healthcare providers and the Public Health Department received H1N1 flu vaccine on October 29th. More is expected in the next few days. The Public Health Department will be monitoring the inventory of which vaccine (nasal mist or injectable) has been received, the names of the providers who have received the vaccine, and how much was received by each healthcare provider.

The Public Health Department is developing a plan for the distribution of the available vaccine which will focus on those identified by the Centers for Disease Control as Tier #1 (at highest risk for severe illness or death) and first to receive vaccine. This plan will be shared early next week.

Hospitalizations and Deaths of Santa Barbara County Residents

H1N1 Hospitalizations & Deaths of Santa Barbara County Residents			
	Past Total	Current¹ Week	Cumulative Total
# hospitalized w/ probable & confirmed H1N1	31	6	37
# probable & confirmed H1N1 deaths	3	0	3

Santa Barbara County has had a total of 37 hospitalizations associated with Pandemic H1N1 flu as of October 28, 2009. The first of these hospitalizations occurred in mid-June of this year. This number of hospitalized includes four pregnant women.

Three of the hospitalized individuals resulted in deaths. There was also a recent death of a 12 year old female in our county with underlying medical conditions that is currently not confirmed as an H1N1 death and therefore not included in the official numbers reported to the State.

There have been two deaths of individuals in Santa Barbara County hospitals who were not residents of this county. These deaths are reported to the county of residence and those counties report these deaths to the State. The two out of county deaths include a 58 year old male from Orange County and a 71 year old female from Kern County.

The listing of cause of death on death certificates is a formal and complex process. The criteria for listing H1N1 influenza as a cause of death on a death certificate is different than the criteria for reporting H1N1 deaths to the State. Only deaths that are determined to be *probable* or *confirmed* by laboratory testing are reported in the State statistics for H1N1 deaths. Whereas, the death certificate criteria are based on clinical diagnosis and testing. So the official number of deaths reported to the State will not necessarily match the number of deaths due to H1N1 recorded on death certificates.

Questions may be directed to the PHD H1N1 Public Hotline at 1-888-722-6358. Additional information is on the PHD website: www.sbcfluinfo.org or follow us on twitter at SBCPublicHealth.

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¹ Week of October 18-24, 2009