



**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
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## **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**

This is a weekly update 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.

As of December 3, 2009, The Public Health Department has provided 13 community vaccination clinics and administered vaccine to over 10,000 residents. In addition, more than 50,000 doses have been administered by local physicians at clinics and in private practice. Increased supplies of H1N1 vaccine have been received locally allowing for additional vaccination clinics to be scheduled. The groups eligible to receive the vaccine have been expanded to all individuals in our county, except healthy adults ages 25 and older. Vaccine is also available to the following groups, regardless of age: healthcare workers, pregnant women or those who care for or live with infants under 6 months. We hope that with continued supplies of vaccine that the vaccine can soon be made available to everyone that wants to receive it.

The next H1N1 flu vaccination clinics for all residents except healthy adults over the age of 25 years are scheduled as follows:

City	Location	Date	Time
Santa Maria	Santa Maria Public Health Clinic 2115 S. Centerpointe Parkway	Saturday, 12/5/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm*
Santa Barbara	Earl Warren Showgrounds 3400 Calle Real	Monday, 12/7/09	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm*
Lompoc	Methodist Church 301 North R Street	Thursday, 12/10/09	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm*
Carpinteria	Carpinteria Fire Station 911 Walnut	Saturday, 12/12/09	10:00 AM – 2:00 pm*

\*Vaccination clinics will end at the designated time or earlier if vaccine supplies are exhausted.

The large hall at Earl Warren has been reserved for the December 7 clinic so that lines can be accommodated in the event of rain.

## Hospitalizations and Deaths of Santa Barbara County Residents

<b>H1N1 Hospitalizations &amp; Deaths of Santa Barbara County Residents</b>			
	<b>Past Total (as of 11/11)</b>	<b>New cases (as of 11/30)</b>	<b>Cumulative Total</b>
# hospitalized w/ probable & confirmed H1N1	47	7	54
# probable & confirmed H1N1 deaths	3	2	5

Santa Barbara County has had a total of 54 hospitalizations associated with Pandemic H1N1 flu as of November 30, 2009. The first of these hospitalizations occurred in mid-June of this year and those hospitalized range in age from 12 days to 82 years. The total number of deaths in our county has now reached 5. All 5 of these deaths occurred in individuals with underlying medical conditions.

Although the rate of infection has slowed down, the prevalence of H1N1 flu is still at epidemic levels and still causing severe illness and death in the County. The Health Department continues to stress the need for personal responsibility to decrease the spread of disease and to seek care immediately if a person has a high risk condition and flu symptoms. Because the holidays are a time of travel and private and public events where people mix and mingle, the PHD reminds residents of the basics of prevention:

- Hand washing especially after direct contact with others (at parties where hugs and handshakes are frequent) and before eating
- Avoid touching mouth, nose and eyes unless hands are recently washed or hand sanitizer is used
- Cover coughs and sneezes and follow with hand cleansing
- Avoid sick people and stay home if you are sick

For ideas on safe travel during the holidays, go to <http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/travelers/>.

The Public Health Department has also been operating an H1N1 flu information phone line where nurses respond to public inquiries in both English and Spanish. Between September 23 and December 4, 2009, 1967 calls have been taken.

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](http://www.sbcfluinfo.org) or follow us on twitter at SBCTPublicHealth.

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