



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
300 N. San Antonio Road • Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 681-5102 • FAX (805) 681-5191
www.countyofsb.org

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

News Media Contact:

Susan Klein-Rothschild
Public Information Officer
(805) 681-5435
(805) 896-1057 (cell)
sklein@sbcphd.org

October 7, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Health Department Initiates an H1N1 Nurse Information Line

The Public Health Department is implementing an H1N1 flu information phone line where questions from the public about H1N1 influenza will be answered by a nurse in English and Spanish. The phone line, 1-888-722-6358, will be in operation during business hours (8am – 5 pm) Monday through Friday. Outside of business hours, a message may be left for a later response.

H1N1 flu is a new virus to which humans do not have a natural immunity. Estimates are that H1N1 flu could affect as many as one in three people this flu season. Now is the time to learn more about the virus, take precautions to prevent the spread of the virus, and develop plans for families and businesses that may experience caring for sick members and absenteeism.

The H1N1 flu information phone line nurse will be able to respond to questions on a wide variety of H1N1 related topics including vaccines, preventing the spread of the flu, caring for an ill person, when to seek medical care, and how to plan for the impacts of the flu.

“The Public Health Department is very pleased to provide a knowledgeable resource to our community as H1N1 flu is both similar to and different than seasonal flu in some ways and it can be complicated to understand,” noted Interim Department Director Michele Mickiewicz.

The H1N1 flu information line will be reinforcing the key message of prevention as there are steps individuals can take to prevent the spread of illness. Vaccinations for both seasonal flu and H1N1 are recommended when they are available. This will be based on your age and medical condition (as recommended by the CDC). In addition, simple yet powerful steps such as thorough hand washing, covering coughs and avoiding close contact with those who are ill can be effective methods of protecting from the H1N1 virus.

For more information about H1N1 flu and how Santa Barbara County is preparing for its impact, call 1-888-722-6358 or visit www.sbcfluinfo.org

###