

Countywide Services Agency

Department of
Health and Human Services

Division of Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public-private partnership saves low-cost flu clinics *New vaccine protects against H1N1, two other strains of influenza* **KICK-OFF EVENT IS MONDAY, OCT. 18**

SACRAMENTO – Low-cost senior and community flu clinics threatened by budget cuts will now take place throughout October and November thanks to a collaboration between Sacramento County Public Health and HealthTech Mobile Services, a private business in Folsom.

For decades, the Sacramento County Immunization Assistance Program, in conjunction with the Red Cross and other volunteer groups, provided low-cost community clinics in many different neighborhoods. Because of budget cuts, only two were scheduled for this year.

HealthTech Mobile Services has scheduled more than a dozen low-cost flu vaccination clinics in many of the same venues previously used by the county. The flu vaccine used will be available through Sacramento County.

A kick-off event for the clinics takes place at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 18 at the Sacramento Association of Realtors, 2003 Howe Ave. in Sacramento. Sacramento County 3rd District Supervisor Susan Peters and Sandra Smoley, former county supervisor and former secretary of the California Health and Welfare Agency, will be on hand to demonstrate the importance of receiving yearly flu immunizations.

“We are very grateful to Mr. Naveen Vaid and HealthTech Mobile Services for working with our staff to offer these clinics,” said Health Officer Glennah Trochet, M.D. “The community is better off for it.”

Added Supervisor Peters, “This partnership is an example of how the private sector and government can work together to improve the health of the community.”

This year’s 3-in-1 vaccine protects against H1N1 and two other strains of seasonal flu, so just one vaccination is needed for the season.

Flu is a potentially serious and preventable contagious disease. An estimated 5-20 percent of the population gets the flu, resulting in an annual average of more than 200,000 hospitalizations and 24,000 deaths in the United States.

This year, health officials recommend vaccinations for everyone over six months of age. Flu vaccine is still especially recommended for high-risk groups such as seniors and pregnant women, but when more people are immunized, flu virus circulates less in the community, and fewer people get sick.

Other actions you can take to protect yourself and others from the flu include:

- Wash hands often with soap and water
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill, and
- Stay home if you are sick with the flu for at least seven days or are symptom-free for 24 hours.

For times, dates and locations of low-cost flu clinics, visit our web site:

www.SCPH.com

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