



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health & OES
Department No.: 041 / 990
For Agenda Of: 10/06/09
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 30 min
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Michele Mickiewicz, MPH, Interim Director (681-5446)
Director Michael Harris, Emergency Operations Chief (560-1099)
Contact Info: Nancy Lapolla, MPH EMS Agency Director (681-5264)
Richard Abrams, Emergency Manager (560-1040)
SUBJECT: Update on H1N1 Influenza Planning /Response Activities

County Counsel Concurrence
As to form: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence
As to form: Yes No N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A
As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board Supervisors:

- a) Receive a report on H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Planning and Response Activities.

Summary Text:

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD) and Office of Emergency Services (OES) have been actively engaged in preparing for the upcoming flu season and the potential impacts of H1N1 influenza virus.

The PHD has been operating in a Department Operations Center (DOC) structure since August 10, 2009 in order to prepare for an anticipated resurgence of H1N1 influenza this fall and winter. The DOC brings together expertise to coordinate a response to public health threats to the County. The DOC H1N1 planning and implementation efforts include:

- Ensuring seasonal and H1N1 vaccinations reach priority target groups.
- Working with health care partners to prepare for the potential of significantly increased demand for medical care in private and public health care settings.
- Providing ongoing guidance to health care providers on testing, prevention and treatment
- Monitoring the H1N1 flu situation through surveillance and testing activities.
- Providing education, outreach and public information to keep residents, businesses, and organizations informed about prevention, symptoms, vaccines, and flu care.

- Coordinating distribution of anti-viral supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile if indicated.

OES is coordinating with the PHD on emergency response planning county-wide. The efforts of PHD and OES build on the county pandemic response plans that were developed in 2006 under the direction and leadership of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. The Pandemic Strategy has been the foundation for the current planning activities and is being revised to guide preparation and response efforts for any novel virus. OES ensures that systems are in place throughout the Operational Area to conduct logistical support, advanced planning, operational coordination and management/policy oversight.

The Public Health Department has a key leadership role in H1N1 pandemic influenza response. Developing response plans and public information campaigns in collaboration with county departments, partner agencies and community partners establishes a solid foundation for improved planning and interventions and strengthens our ability to meet the needs of the community.

Background:

H1N1 flu is a novel or new flu type for which humans have little or no natural immunity. The World Health Organization has declared H1N1 a flu pandemic. An influenza pandemic is a worldwide outbreak of the same influenza type in multiple countries. H1N1 flu is likely to increase over the fall and winter months (the traditional flu season). At this point in time it appears that levels of severe illness from H1N1 will be similar to seasonal flu. Most people recover from H1N1 flu without hospitalization or medical care; however in some people it has the potential to cause serious illness.

Vaccine – Who can get it and when?

The first phase of H1N1 vaccine is expected to be available by the end of October. Additional vaccine will be received each week. There is no shortage of H1N1 vaccine anticipated. Because the vaccine will come in phases, the CDC has directed that the initial phase of vaccine be targeted to specific groups that are at higher risk for severe illness:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children less than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical personnel with direct patient contact
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age
- Children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions

Once these groups have received H1N1 vaccine, the next priority level is:

- Additional health care and emergency service personnel
- Children age 5-25
- People age 25-64 with chronic conditions

Once these groups have received H1N1 vaccine, all other age groups will be vaccinated. It is interesting that those age 65 and older are not targeted by the Centers for Disease Control for early receipt of H1N1 vaccine. This is because this age group experiences a much lower incidence of severe illness due to H1N1.

Where do you go to get H1N1 vaccine?

Residents are being directed to get the H1N1 vaccine through their usual primary care provider or clinic. The vaccine and vaccine supplies are being shipped directly to all medical providers who have placed an order via the State's on-line H1N1 order system. There is no cost to the medical provider for the vaccine and vaccine supplies — there may be an administration fee charged by the provider to vaccine recipients. For those who are uninsured or who have no regular source of care, the PHD will offer community-based vaccine clinics county-wide. These clinics will be offered during and after business hours, during the week and on Saturdays. It is anticipated that 60 half-day vaccine clinics will be provided over the course of 6 weeks vaccinating a total of up to 20,000 individuals in the months of November and December.

Surge Planning

The PHD is also working with hospitals, clinics, and other health care providers to manage the demand for medical care that may result from H1N1. The approaches include nurse information lines, phone evaluation of patients with flu-like symptoms, on-line flu assessment tools, and expanded hours for office visits of patients with flu. A major focus of the PHD public information effort is to educate residents about H1N1. Key messages include:

- H1N1 is a flu; the symptoms of H1N1 are the same as the seasonal flu
- Most people recover from H1N1 infection without the need for hospitalization or medical care
- Levels of severe illness from H1N1 flu appear similar to seasonal influenza but H1N1 is more likely to affect younger persons (children and young adults)
- One of the most important steps to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated – against both seasonal flu and H1N1 when it is available to people based on their age and medical conditions

In addition to getting seasonal flu and H1N1 flu vaccinations, people can prevent the spread of influenza by following this advice:

- Wash hands frequently or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- Sneeze or cough into the upper arm or sleeve to avoid contaminating your hands
- Stay home when ill to avoid spreading illness to others
- Avoid contact with others who are ill

How is information on H1N1 getting out to residents?

The PHD Public Information Officer has been working with OES, the County's Communication Director, the Red Cross and other community organizations to reach county residents with H1N1 messages. Here is a partial list of what has been done to date:

- Over 100,000 bilingual H1N1 brochures have been distributed to schools and local community-based organizations.
- Radio public service announcements (PSAs) in English, Spanish and Mixteco with key prevention messages are in production.
- A brochure to guide business in preparing and responding is on the PHD flu information website.
- Direct calls to all day care centers, preschools, school districts, and private schools to provide information and establish a point of contact for future communications.

- An H1N1 phone line is answered in English and Spanish Monday-Friday during business hours.
- H1N1 Informational Forums were held with health care partner agencies with more than 75 participants. In addition, a forum was held for non-profit agencies with over 45 attendees.
- Outreach presentation and materials have been shared with many community groups and organizations.
- Press releases sent to local media outlets weekly, or more frequently as needed.
- Provider alerts sent by email/fax to all physicians and medical care providers.
- Television PSAs and feature shows on H1N1 are in production for broadcast on local cable channels.
- Bilingual bus posters will be placed on interiors of busses in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Lompoc.

All brochures, press releases, posters, and other materials are available on the PHD flu information website: www.SBCFluInfo.org.

Where to get more information about H1N1?

Call the PHD H1N1 Information Line toll-free at 1-888-722-6358 or visit www.SBCFluInfo.org.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Funding for pandemic response comes to the Public Health Department through the State Department of Public Health with a single comprehensive allocation. The funding total is expected to be between \$1,476,121 and \$1,576,121. Of this total anticipated amount, \$746,442 is part of an on-going allocation for emergency preparedness with new funding specifically for H1N1 activities for fiscal year 2009-10 in an anticipated amount of \$729,679 - \$829,679. These funds have been allocated to help offset the department's increased costs to meet the demands of H1N1 planning and response activities.

The PHD has submitted the application and work plan required to receive the funding and will return to the Board with a contract and any necessary budget revision requests. The application will be submitted to the California Department of Public Health by October 1, 2009. We anticipate bringing this item back to your Board by the end of the year.

Staffing Impacts:

In order to meet the additional demands of H1N1 planning and response activities, the department will be hiring approximately 10 (5.00 FTE) extra help or contractor positions. We are still in the process of assessing our needs.

<u>Legal Positions:</u>	<u>FTEs:</u>
10	5.00

Special Instructions:

None

Attachments:

H1N1 PowerPoint Presentation

Authored by:

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