



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Public Health

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November 3, 2004



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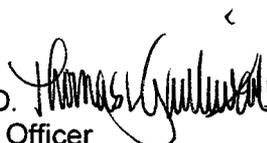
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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. 
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **INFLUENZA VACCINE SHORTAGE UPDATE**

On October 19, 2004, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, instructing the Director of Health Services to review what impact the increase of patients will have on our already overcrowded emergency rooms and what plans must be implemented to address this increase; and to report on what steps the Department is taking to insure that Los Angeles County has an adequate supply of anti-viral drugs or other treatments. This is the report for the November 3, 2004 Board meeting.

This week we are also confirming the county's first reported case of influenza B for the 2004-05 flu season. Influenza type B was isolated from an adult in the western area of the County on November 1st.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH INFLUENZA VACCINE

Influenza vaccine from Public Health was used to vaccinate over 130,000 people in 2003. This was an estimated four percent of all vaccine given to County residents. This year the State planned to give us 108,000 doses of Chiron vaccine plus 16,900 doses of Aventis vaccine for children. To supplement the State allotment, Public Health ordered an additional 30,000 doses of Aventis vaccine last spring. When we learned in September of possible delays by Chiron, Public Health requested to be placed on a waiting list for 30,000 more Aventis doses. Additionally the Department ordered and received 22,000 doses for our DHS hospital and clinic patients.

By October 20th, Public Health had received 20,800 doses of vaccine consisting of 15,000 Aventis adult doses (from our first 30,000 order) and 5,800 Aventis children's doses. Last week we received an additional 60,060 Aventis doses for adults and 11,000 Aventis doses for children from the State. Aventis has not been able to provide us with information on the status of the remaining 15,000 doses from our original order, but since it has already supplied us with 50% of this order, it is unlikely that we will receive more. We do not expect to receive any vaccine from

our additional wait-listed order. Table One provides the total number of doses of child and adult influenza vaccine received by Public Health to date.

Public Health has also ordered 700 doses of FluMist® to be offered to healthy Public Health employees less than 50 years of age who provide direct patient care.

Table One. Influenza Vaccine Received By Public Health			
Vaccine Received	Child Doses	Adult Doses	Total Doses
Initial Aventis Order	5,800	15,000	20,800
Vaccine from State	11,000	60,060	71,060
Total	16,800	75,060	91,860

Approximately 35,000 adult vaccine doses will be distributed to skilled nursing facilities due to the high risk nature of their elderly and debilitated patients. Public Health staff contacted skilled nursing facilities to determine the status of their vaccine orders and the amount of vaccine needed to make up shortfalls. Distribution to skilled nursing facilities by DHS is currently underway. Any remaining adult vaccine will be directed to the Public Health outreach flu clinics.

Approximately 40,000 doses will be distributed through Public Health outreach flu clinics conducted in each SPA. Locations, dates and times of the Public Health outreach flu clinics are provided in Attachment One. The children's doses are being distributed through DHS and community clinics that participate in the Vaccines for Children program. Vaccine for children in the high risk groups will be available at Public Health Centers during week days throughout the County. The public may call 1-800-427-8700 or go to www.lapublichealth.org for more information regarding the times and locations of these clinics.

Flu Outreach Clinics

In order to provide access throughout the county, Public Health will open clinics on Saturday, November 13 and 20, 2004. One half of the 40,000 adult doses will be used on each Saturday. The number of vaccine doses will be allocated using a formula of the proportion of the population over age 65 years to estimate the number of high risk persons in each Service Planning Area (SPA). The list of dates and sites in each SPA is provided in Attachment One.

The Saturday clinics will focus on providing vaccine to adults in the high risk groups. Although children will not be turned away, in our public announcements of these clinics we will emphasize that vaccine for children is available through at our Public Health Centers.

Given the limited supply of vaccine, it will only be provided to those in the high risk categories. Announcement of the clinic times and locations will include information regarding the types of information people can provide to show that they are eligible to receive vaccine. This may include documentation of age, or medical condition such as a prescription, medication bottle, or note from their physician.

Area Health Officers are working with local law enforcement agencies to assist with traffic and crowd control at each site. We plan to provide consecutive numbers to those eligibles who attend up to the number of doses at that site. This approach will also allow us to inform those for whom vaccine is not available before they have spent considerable time in a line. We are also contacting the appropriate agencies for assistance with lavatory facilities, site set-up and related logistical support.

We will provide the public with health education materials regarding actions they can take to reduce their chances of contracting the flu. This will include information on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and medications that can be taken to treat the flu.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED) PLANS

There is great concern in the community that any significant increase in the number of patients presenting to EDs with flu symptoms will have a negative impact on an already stressed system. Since it is difficult to predict the degree and location of impact, the DHS Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency and Public Health are working proactively to plan for the upcoming flu season. Based on past experience with respiratory illness and flu seasons, measures being taken by EMS and Public Health including:

1. Distribute Public Health flu vaccine posters and respiratory hygiene etiquette posters to hospitals, convalescent homes, ambulance companies and fire departments.
2. Record a 60-second message regarding ways other than vaccination to reduce the chance of contracting the flu and reducing transmission given the vaccine shortage, to air on KTNQ-AM, KLAX-FM, KBIG-FM, KHHT-FM, KLAC-AM in English and Spanish.
3. Consider use of FluMist® -- the intranasal influenza vaccine -- for healthcare workers, emergency responders and safety workers. FluMist is approved for healthy children and adults from 5 through 49 years of age, including household contacts of people at high risk for influenza complications.
4. Work with the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) and hospitals to reduce the impact of influenza-related hospitalizations. Recommendations include limiting elective surgery, creation of satellite walk-in clinics employing special flu triage criteria ("flu clinics"), and planning for discharge of patients in overflow situations.
5. Convene an influenza surveillance committee including representatives from ED physician groups, Public Health, EMS, HASC, paramedic provider agencies, and community clinics to evaluate the pre-hospital, emergency department, and hospital capacity on a weekly basis and make recommendations.
6. Work with HASC to monitor hospital ED visits via the Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) Syndromic Surveillance program.
7. Educate the public on influenza prevention and to direct those with minor symptoms to seek care at physician offices, urgent care centers and clinics, rather than hospital emergency departments.
8. Encourage private MDs, clinics, urgent care clinics, and walk-in clinics to set up evening hours to reduce the burden on EDs.
9. Work with media to reduce dramatization resulting in inappropriate ED visits.
10. Institute temporary policy changes to allow basic life support ambulances to bypass hospitals on diversion.

ANTIVIRAL DRUGS

We are examining the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding the use of specific antiviral drugs and may need to develop our own protocols based on the costs associated with the medications recommended. We will order antiviral medication to ensure a sufficient supply to treat patients who present at DHS facilities using a set of reasonable assumptions. We will also evaluate their possible use for prophylaxis for ED patients. We are developing protocols for our facilities to screen those with suspected influenza to identify patients that may require treatment. Early in November we will meet with the HASC to coordinate efforts within the county hospital network regarding the use of antiviral medications.

We will also promote use of antiviral drugs as prophylaxis for unvaccinated healthcare workers with direct patient care.

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE

Despite prevention efforts, influenza cases will still occur. To reduce secondary complications from flu, pneumococcal vaccine should be administered to at-risk patients. This is built into the protocol for our inpatients in DHS facilities. In addition Public Health has purchased 7,000 doses to be administered at Public Health Centers particularly to those at highest risk and without other sources of care who are not able to receive flu vaccination due to limited supplies.

We will inform you of the final Public Health outreach flu clinic plans and update you on other aspects of these plans as new information becomes available. In the meantime if you have any questions, please let either of us know.

TLG:JEF:ac
410:011

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

INFLUENZA MASS VACCINATION CLINIC SITES BY SERVICE PLANNING AREA

(All clinics will start at 9:00 a.m. and will remain open while vaccine supplies last.)

Facility Name	Address	Clinic Dates
Antelope Valley Service Planning Area (SPA 1)		
Palmdale Senior Center (approx. 500 doses available)	102 E Ave Q12 Palmdale, CA 93550	November 13, 2004
Antelope Valley Senior Center (approx. 500 doses available)	777 W. Jackman Street Lancaster, CA 93535	November 20, 2004
San Fernando Valley Service Planning Area (SPA 2)		
Verdugo Job Center (approx. 1500 doses available each day)	1522 S. Central Glendale, CA 91206	November 13, 20, 2004
N. Hollywood Health Center (approx. 1000 doses available each day)	5300 Tujunga Avenue N. Hollywood 91364	November 13, 20, 2004
Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center (approx. 500 doses available each day)	22900 Market Street Newhall, CA 91321	November 13, 20, 2004
ONE Generation (approx. 1500 doses available each day)	18255 Victory Blvd. Reseda, CA 91335	November 13, 20, 2004
San Gabriel Service Planning Area (SPA 3)		
Monrovia Community Center (approx. 1500 doses available each day)	119 W. Palm Ave Monrovia 91016	November 13, 20, 2004
Pomona Health Center (approx. 1500 doses available each day)	750 S. Park Avenue Pomona, CA 91766	November 13, 20, 2004
Metro Service Planning Area (SPA 4)		
Central Health Center (approx. 1200 doses available each day)	241 N. Figueroa St. LA 90012	November 13, 20, 2004
Hollywood-Wilshire HC (approx. 1000 doses available each day)	5205 Melrose Avenue LA 90038	November 13, 20, 2004
West Service Planning Area (SPA 5)		
Venice Family Clinic (approx. 1500 doses available each day)	2509 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica 90405	November 13, 20, 2004
South Service Planning Area (SPA 6)		
Ruth Temple Health Center (approx. 1000 doses available on November 13, 2004) (approx. 500 doses available on November 20, 2004)	3834 S. Western Avenue LA 90062	November 13, 20, 2004
South Health Center (approx. 1000 doses available on November 13, 2004) (approx. 500 doses available on November 20, 2004)	1522 E. 102nd St. LA 90002	November 13, 20, 2004
East Service Planning Area (SPA 7)		
Adventure County Park (approx. 1000 doses available each day)	10130 S. Gunn Ave. - Main Hall Whittier, CA 90605	November 13, 20, 2004
South Gate Park (approx. 1000 doses available each day)	4900 Southern South Gate, CA 90280	November 13, 20, 2004
South Bay Service Planning Area (SPA 8)		
Curtis Tucker Health Center (approx. 1000 doses available each day)	123 W. Manchester Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90301	November 13, 20, 2004
Torrance Health Center (approx. 1000 doses available each day)	711 Del Amo Blvd. Torrance, CA 90502	November 13, 20, 2004

*The number of doses is based on the percent of persons over age 65 residing in the Service Planning Area.