



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY URGES FLU SHOTS FOR PEOPLE AT RISK FOR FLU COMPLICATIONS *County Health Facilities Will Provide Low-Cost Vaccinations for Eligible Individuals*

People at risk for complications from the flu are urged by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) to get a flu shot now. Those not at risk are encouraged to wait until Oct. 24 for their shots.

"Every flu season, everyone in the priority groups should get a flu shot to protect against complications," said Nancy Bowen, M.D., County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Public Health Officer. "The priority groups include people 65 years and older, children aged 6-23 months, pregnant women, persons with chronic health conditions, and others." For more information on priority groups, visit the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) flu web page: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm>.

Flu shots are available to those in priority groups at County Health facilities.

This year, the CDC advises that those not in priority groups wait until Oct. 24 for their vaccinations, to make flu shots more accessible for those at highest risk.

Beginning Oct. 24, people 60 years and older and household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from flu will also be eligible for flu vaccine at County Health facilities.

Those not eligible for a flu shot at a County Health facility are encouraged to call the CHIP/Aging and Independence Services Flu Hotline at 1-877-358-0202 for information about the many other flu shot clinics available. That same information is available on the Web at www.sdchip.org.

The cost of an immunization visit at a County Health facility is \$10 per person, no matter how many shots are given. The fee may be waived for those unable to pay. Pneumococcal and tetanus-diphtheria vaccines can also be obtained at these clinics (and any time of year) if medically indicated.

For recorded information about flu shots offered at County Health facilities, please call the County Flu Information Line at 1-866-358-2966. General information about the flu and flu shots is available at the federal Centers for Disease Control's National Immunization Information Hotline at 1-800-232-2522 (English) or 1-800-232-0233 (Spanish).

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