



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTYWIDE REDISTRIBUTION STRATEGY FOR VACCINE ANNOUNCED

Plan Will Direct Vaccine to High-Risk Priority Groups Who Need It Most

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), Community Health Improvement Partners/Immunization Coalition, and local hospitals, physicians and community clinics have come together to create a vaccine redistribution strategy that will help direct flu vaccine to those who need it most.

“The Flu Vaccine Redistribution Strategy starts with a survey that will be sent to thousands of medical providers and flu vaccine clinics over the next few days,” said Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency. “The survey asks if organizations have excess flu vaccine and, if they do, will they sell it to clinics that agree to give shots only to high risk individuals.”

Participating clinics agree to be open to the public and to charge reasonable fees. If excess vaccine is found, hours and locations will be posted on the San Diego Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) Web site, www.sdchip.org, or call 1 (877) FLU-0202.

Participating clinics also agree to have clients fill out a screening form to identify the high-risk priority group to which they belong.

Surveys will be collected by CHIP, which will match organizations with excess vaccine to those who want to provide it to the public. It is not known at this time how much vaccine is available.

When additional adult vaccine is released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to HHS, supplies will be made available at community clinics, which will provide low-cost options for those who cannot afford fees charged at other clinics.

High-risk priority groups include children ages 6 to 23 months, seniors age 65 or older, those ages 2 – 64 who have chronic disease, children who take daily aspirin, those in nursing homes, pregnant women, and out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children under 6 months.

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