



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **HEALTH CARE WORKERS URGED TO GET FLU SHOTS**

***“Vaccinate Your Staff” Contest for Physician, Clinic Offices Takes Place Through November***

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency’s Immunization Branch, as part of the San Diego County Immunization Initiative, and the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) are sponsoring a “Vaccinate Your Staff” contest for physicians’ offices and clinics as part of an effort to improve the rate of flu immunization among healthcare staff.

“Studies show that only about a third of healthcare workers get flu shots each year,” said Nancy Bowen, M.D., County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Public Health Officer. “That’s far too few. We want to motivate all healthcare workers to get a flu shot each year, so they can stay healthy and help protect their patients from getting the flu as well.”

The contest, which began in mid-October, will accept entries from doctors’ offices and clinics countywide. It will reward those with the highest verified immunized percentage of staff members with prizes donated by local businesses. There will also be a prize for the most innovative strategy for motivating staff.

“This is a fun way to help draw attention to a serious issue,” said Jennifer Danzig, CHIP – Immunize San Diego Coordinator. “If you’re going to motivate people, you have to engage them first, and most people enjoy contests.”

Flu shots are recommended annually for persons at risk for influenza-related complications and those in close contact with them, and are usually given in October and November. For recorded information about flu shots and places where they are being offered, please call the County Flu Information Line at 1-866-358-2966. You may also call the Aging and Independence Services/Community Health Improvement Partners Flu Hotline at 1-877-358-0202 to talk to an Information Specialist about flu shots. General information about the flu and flu shots is available at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Immunization Information Hotline at 1-800-232-2522 (English) or 1-800-232-0233 (Spanish).

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