



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

FREE FLU SHOTS OFFERED TO THOSE IMPACTED BY THE FIRES *Vaccinations Are Available at County, American Red Cross Assistance Centers*

The County of San Diego HHS (Health and Human Services Agency) is now offering free flu vaccine at three County Local Assistance Centers (LACs) and three American Red Cross Family Assistance Centers to those affected by the wildfires. The Agency urges people at higher risk for complications from influenza, as well as those who want to reduce their chance of getting influenza, to get the seasonal influenza vaccine.

The influenza vaccine, AFLURIA®, is being donated by its manufacturer, CSL Biotherapies and the distributor, Global Pharmaceutical Sourcing. The donation was secured by Passport Health, a private travel health care provider; they have also donated vaccine and medical supplies.

“We want to thank both CSL Biotherapies and Passport Health for their generosity and concern for the health of our community,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., County of San Diego Public Health Officer. “Flu season is fast approaching and getting a flu vaccine is one of the best ways to protect against influenza.

“At-risk groups include people 50 years and older, children aged 6-59 months, pregnant women, persons with chronic health conditions, and others. Influenza and its complications can seriously endanger their health. Many in this group also are susceptible to medical problems related to poor air quality from the recent fires,” Dr. Wooten added.

County LACs are one-stop assistance sites for victims of the wildfires. They offer help from a variety of government agencies, businesses and charities. For more information about the LACs, including locations, hours of operation and types of assistance available, visit the County of San Diego Emergency Homepage at www.sdcountyemergency.com and click on “Firestorm Recovery Information,” or call the 211 San Diego information service.

For recorded information about influenza vaccinations offered at County health facilities for those in at-risk groups, please call the County Flu Information Line at 1-866-358-2966. For additional locations for persons who are not in the at-risk groups, please call the CHIP/Aging and Independence Services Flu Hotline for a referral at 1-877-358-0202. You can also visit websites at www.sdchip.org (click on the No Flu icon) and www.sdiz.org.

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