



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY PROVIDES FLU VACCINE TO CLINICS AFFECTED BY WILDFIRES

Health and Human Services Agency Uses Vaccine From Drill to Help Four East County Clinics

Thanks to a planned mass vaccination drill, the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has been able to help four East County health clinics provide flu vaccinations for their clients.

The clinics – Sycuan Medical and Dental Clinic at the Sycuan reservation, Mountain Health and Community Services in Campo, Southern Indian Health Council in Alpine and Campo, and Indian Health Council in Pauma Valley – lost their flu vaccine after power outages caused by last week's firestorms. Many temperature-sensitive vaccines and pharmaceuticals stored in refrigerators had to be destroyed.

Under normal circumstances, extra flu vaccine may not have been available, but HHSA had planned Operation Safeguard San Diego, a mass vaccination drill, for Nov. 5, and 3,000 doses were available. About 1,000 of the doses were donated to the clinics.

"Timing is everything, and in this case, the timing enabled us to meet a critical community need," said Dianne Jacob, Vice Chair, San Diego County Board of Supervisors. "Now residents in these areas can get their flu vaccinations as planned, which is one less thing for them to worry about."

"We couldn't have responded to our clients without the assistance of Supervisor Dianne Jacob and HHSA," said Judith Shaplin, CEO, Mountain Health and Community Services.

HHSA also replaced clinics' pediatric vaccine supplies, and secured prescription medications for people displaced by the fires who are picking up their medications at community clinics.

Operation Safeguard San Diego was postponed from Nov. 5 to Nov. 18. The mass vaccination drill will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, Building A, 6845 University Ave., San Diego. Volunteers are still needed; free flu shots are available for eligible participants. For information, please call 1-800-600-9594.

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