



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **FLU VACCINE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE TO LOCAL PROVIDERS**

*County Health and Human Services Agency to Broker Purchases of Adult Vaccine*

Local healthcare providers may purchase adult flu vaccine through the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), thanks to an arrangement with vaccine manufacturer Aventis-Pasteur and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

About 992,000 doses of adult and child flu vaccine were made available to California for purchase through January 2005; San Diego County's share is just under 66,000, said Wilma Wooten, M.D., San Diego County Deputy Public Health Officer. Providers' orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

"HHSA is working with local healthcare partners to determine which providers and facilities still need vaccine," Dr. Wooten said. "We encourage vaccine providers to follow the CDC's directive to give the vaccine only to those who are in the priority groups at risk for complications from the flu."

Local providers have until Dec. 1 to return their vaccine order forms to HHSA. HHSA will forward orders to the State, which will send orders to one of 13 CDC-approved distributors. Distributors will work with individual providers on delivery and payment. The process is estimated to take two to three weeks from receipt of the order by the State. Providers can obtain the *Vaccine Order Form* can be obtained at <http://www.immunization-sd.org> or by calling (619) 692-8661.

Priority groups for receiving flu vaccine include: All children aged 6-23 months; adults 65 years of age and older; individuals age 2 - 64 with underlying chronic medical conditions; all women who will be pregnant during influenza season; residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities; children 6 months to 18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy; healthcare workers involved with direct patient care and out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children less than 6 months of age. For information on where to find a County Public Health clinic, please call the County Flu Hotline, (866) 358-2966. For other clinics, please call the CHIP Flu Line, (877) FLU-0202, or visit the CHIP Web site, [www.sdchip.org](http://www.sdchip.org).

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