



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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FLU UPDATE – DEC. 10

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is seeing an increased percentage of people with flu-like symptoms at local emergency departments.

Hospital emergency departments surveyed by HHSA were seeing 18 percent of patients reporting flu-like symptoms for the week of Nov. 29 to Dec. 6. This is up from 11 percent of patients for the previous week's reporting period. Percentages for each hospital are not available.

The percentage of students who are absent from school for any reason has stayed mostly the same in local schools from Nov. 29 to Dec. 6. Elementary schools surveyed report 6.7 percent absenteeism, compared to 7 percent the previous reporting period. Middle/high schools report 8.8 percent, compared to 9 percent the previous reporting period.

For Nov. 29 – Dec. 6, there were 85 positive influenza virus detections, bringing the total to 126. No increase in pneumonia or influenza deaths has been reported. At least half of these detections were confirmed Influenza A in HHSA labs; state lab tests are being conducted to determine if any are of the Fujian strain. At least one was previously determined to be Fujian.

HHSA, along with other health departments throughout the state, is receiving additional vaccine for high-risk individuals, including the elderly, children under age 2, and those with chronic diseases. HHSA is expected to receive 1,600 additional doses of vaccine today (Wednesday, Dec. 10), which will be available at HHSA's health clinics. For information on location of health clinics, please call (619) 692-8661 or visit the San Diego County Web site at www.sdcounty.ca.gov and click on "Flu Shot Locations."

HHSA and partner health care providers in the community are following the Health Services Capacity Issues Task Force Plan in order to ensure that hospitals do not become overwhelmed with patients. As part of the plan, hospitals are assessing their capacity daily; current capacity is meeting demands.

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