



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jonah Weinberg (619) 515-6535

COUNTY AND HOSPITALS IMPLEMENT PLAN TO ADDRESS FLU SEASON *Hospitals Prepare for Increased Demand*

In order to respond to the heavy demand on services at hospitals, Dr. Nancy Bowen, the County Public Health Officer, asked local medical providers to implement Level II of the Health Services Capacity Issues Task Force Plan.

“I don’t want people to be overly concerned,” said Bowen, “because we are NOT in a health crisis, however, in an abundance of caution we want hospitals to be prepared to handle a further possible influx of patients with flu-like symptoms. If we implement Level II measures now, we will not have to react later.”

Level II of the plan implements several procedures, including a closer tracking and monitoring of patients, respiratory equipment and available beds.

“We have to accept that it’s flu season,” said Bowen, “and the demand for health care always increases at this time of year. Fortunately we have plans and procedures, and we are well prepared to handle this.”

The Level II will stay in place until further notice.

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