

County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date Held Until
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Agenda Item No: Agenda Item No:

Department: Health Services

4/5 Vote Not Required

Contact:
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Board Date:
9/29/2009

Deadline for Board Action:
9/29/2009

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: 2009 H1N1 Influenza Update.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Informational.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT - None.

Explanation (if required): None.

Prior Board Action: 05/05/09 H1N1 Flu Emergency Declaration.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: The Board and public would not have access to current information regarding 2009 H1N1 Influenza status, and the Department of Health Services planning and activities.

Background:

In April 2009, a novel influenza virus was identified in two children in southern California that was later found to be the same virus circulating in Mexico. This virus was causing severe influenza and numerous deaths. Because the severity of this new type of influenza was unknown, a massive Public Health response ensued as national, state and local health departments mobilized for the possibility of a pandemic influenza event. The World Health Organization declared such an event on June 6, 2009. Sonoma County Department of Health Services Public Health Division opened the Public Health Response Center from April 27, 2009 thru May 8, 2009 to address the growing concern about the course of this influenza virus. The Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory performed its duties as the regional lab capable of performing all but the final confirmatory test for this new virus. The lab processed hundreds of influenza tests in just a few weeks. Public Health worked with the media to provide accurate and timely information and sent Health Alerts to medical providers and healthcare partners, providing information and situation updates, along with new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Several Press Conferences have been held, along with numerous local radio spots (in English and Spanish), and interviews with local newspapers and general Press Releases. The Public Health Preparedness staff led the outreach to local healthcare partners and served as the conduit for information and resources from Federal and State agencies, including acquiring a portion of the Strategic National Stockpile of antiviral supplies. Public Health staff performed contact investigations on early cases and continue to monitor the National, State and local situation, including severe cases and deaths related to 2009 H1N1 Influenza

Currently, the 2009 H1N1 Influenza has several areas of focus:

1. Monitoring of hospitalizations, outbreaks and deaths.
2. Providing information to the public and organizations, including schools and businesses, covering guidance on individual and community mitigation activities, through media, public speaking engagements, written guidance for institutions and agencies, a recorded phone line, PH nurse phone line, and specific information on the PH website.
3. Keeping medical providers up to date on developments in testing, treating and preventing 2009 H1N1, through Health Alerts, Grand Rounds presentations, Sonoma County Medical Association (SCMA), news briefs, website updates, e-mails, and regularly scheduled conference calls with local healthcare partners.
4. Distribution of the antiviral from the Strategic National Stockpile in accordance with state guidance.
5. Coordinating the medication distribution of the 2009 H1N1 Influenza vaccine in Sonoma County including encouraging private and community healthcare providers to register on the CDPH website to order vaccines; providing technical assistance to providers regarding this process; providing information on the guidance for vaccine target groups; prioritizing registered providers to ensure vaccine access to target groups; and monitoring vaccine usage according to CDPH guidelines.
6. Planning for activation of up to 9 mass vaccination dispensing clinics (3 sites on 3 dates) to provide the vaccine to those who may otherwise be unable to obtain it. Staffing for these clinics will be comprised of PH staff, Disaster Service Workers and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.

Additionally, an item will come before the Board of Supervisors in October to appropriate unanticipated revenue for 2009 H1N1 Influenza response. These funds are limited to expense directly related to 2009 H1N1 Influenza response through June 30, 2010.

Although current medical opinion has determined that 2009 H1N1 Influenza does not result in disease which is no more severe than seasonal flu in most individuals, it appears very few individuals under age 65 years have any pre-existing immunity. Therefore, the majority of the population is susceptible to it, with estimates running as high as 30-40% of the population becoming ill with H1N1 2009 over the next several months. Children and young adults are most likely to become ill. As with any disease, when the number of people who get sick rises, the numbers of those with severe complications and deaths also rise. Sonoma County can expect to see many absences from work and school, more flu-related hospitalizations, and, unfortunately, more flu-related deaths over the coming months. By continuing the activities outlined above, the Department of Health Services will continue to work with our healthcare partners and the community in an effort to minimize the impact of 2009 H1N1 on Sonoma County.

Attachments: None.

On File With Clerk: CDC Guidance for Businesses and Employers To Plan and Respond to the 2009–2010 Influenza Season; CDC Guidance for State & Local Health Officials & School Administrators for 2009-2010 School Year; CDC Recommendations for the Amount of Time Persons with Influenza-Like Illness Should be Away from Others

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Board Action (If other than “Requested”)

Vote: