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COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY

June 8, 2009

TO: Supervisor Patricia Bates, Fifth District, Chair
Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District, Vice-Chair
Supervisor John M. W. Moorlach, Second District
Supervisor Bill Campbell, Third District
Supervisor Chris Norby, Fourth District

SUBJECT: Novel H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Investigation - Update 14

The Orange County public health laboratory has confirmed that a middle-aged man is the first person in Orange County to die of novel H1N1 influenza. The man, who had pre-existing health conditions, died at an Orange County hospital.

The man is the fourth Californian to die with the novel H1N1 influenza virus. Statewide there have been more than 1,000 confirmed and probable cases of the novel H1N1 influenza virus. While most cases of novel H1N1 influenza have been relatively mild, at least 62 infected people in the state have been hospitalized. Most of those hospitalized had underlying medical conditions.

The Health Care Agency's novel H1N1 influenza surveillance activities in Orange County have identified 78 confirmed and 8 probable cases to date. Given the current priorities for testing, most cases are not tested and the number of cases reported likely greatly underestimates the number of cases in the community. The current priorities for disease surveillance focus on identifying severe cases, clusters of cases, and certain groups of particular concern including health care workers and pregnant women.

The Health Care Agency conducted an after-action review to identify strengths and weaknesses in our initial response to novel H1N1 influenza, and we will continue with forward-looking preparation and planning throughout the summer. While we do not yet know what a resurgence of novel H1N1 influenza may look like in the fall, the lessons learned from our experience this spring will help us to strengthen our activities.

Vaccine issues are being addressed at the national level, and plans and processes for vaccination distribution are being developed. Should a novel H1N1 influenza vaccine become available, it is likely that public health will play a significant role in the distribution of the vaccine in addition to the regular seasonal influenza vaccine. The Health Care Agency is preparing a local contingency plan should we become responsible for distribution of the vaccine.

Members, Board of Supervisors

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If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at (714) 834-6021.



David L. Riley, Interim Director

DLR:dwt (09-137)

cc: Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer
Stephen Dunivent, Deputy CEO