



**Katie Albertson**  
Director of Governmental Affairs

2222 "M" Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
(209) 385-7636  
(209) 385-7673 Fax  
www.co.merced.ca.us

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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MEDIA CONTACT: Katie Albertson, 209.385.7636

**SPECIAL FLU VACCINE CLINICS SCHEDULED**

**MERCED** – The Merced County Department of Public Health will be offering pandemic (H1N1) vaccine beginning November 3, 2009 during special H1N1 flu vaccine clinics that will be conducted at the times and locations detailed below. The vaccine will be distributed to people in the target groups based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The days and hours for the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine clinics are:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Days and Times</b>
County Health Department 260 E. 15th Street Merced, CA	Tuesdays - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Fridays - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Los Banos Fairgrounds Geronimo Building Los Banos, CA	Wednesdays – 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

The County currently has both the nasal spray vaccine and the injectable vaccine in limited quantities. These clinics will be held based on vaccine availability.

*“Currently, we need to vaccinate those in our community who are at highest risk of having complications from the pandemic flu,” commented Dr. Timothy Livermore, Merced County’s Public Health Officer. “As we continue to receive the vaccine shipments in the coming weeks, we will be able to vaccinate anyone in the County who would like to receive a vaccine. As more vaccine becomes available in coming weeks, the Health Department will continue to notify the public of the availability and distribution of the H1N1 flu vaccine.”*

At the H1N1 flu vaccine clinics, the Health Department will be providing the vaccine to individuals in the target groups listed below, based on guidance from the CDC.

- Pregnant women;
- People who live with or care for children younger than six months of age;
- Health care and emergency services personnel with direct, face- to-face patient contact;
- Healthy children - two through four years of age;
- Children – three through eighteen years of age who have chronic medical conditions.

Currently, the health department does not have vaccine for children younger than two years of age. Individuals who have a fever or have received other live vaccines (ex. flu mist or measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine) in the past few weeks may not be eligible to receive a flu vaccine based on the health department's guidelines for vaccine administration.

Based on state guidance, the administrative fee will be waived for the H1N1 flu vaccine at the H1N1 flu vaccine clinics for any individual who does not have insurance coverage. Individuals with medical insurance should bring their insurance identification cards, but co-payments will be waived for the H1N1 flu vaccine.

For more information on the H1N1 flu shots and special pandemic flu clinics, please call the Health Department numbers listed below.

<b>Questions About...</b>	<b>Call</b>
<b>General Flu and Vaccine Information including Clinic Hours and Locations</b>	English - (209) 381-1180 Spanish - (209) 381-1181
<b>Specific Health Related Questions on Vaccine</b>	(209) 381-1020

More information on seasonal and pandemic H1N1 flu is also available on the County's flu website at [www.co.merced.ca.us/flu](http://www.co.merced.ca.us/flu).

For more information regarding Merced County, please visit our website at [www.co.merced.ca.us](http://www.co.merced.ca.us)