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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATED H1N1 FLU CLINIC INFORMATION

MERCED – The Merced County Health Department today announced its flu clinic schedule for the week of November 9, 2009. Clinic hours and locations are listed below. The County Health Department will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 in observance of the Veterans Day holiday. As a result, the special flu vaccination clinic in Los Banos will be moved to Thursday for this week only.

Health Department Special Flu Vaccination Clinic Hours	
Location	Days and Times
County Health Department 260 E. 15th Street Merced, CA	Tuesday, November 10, 2009 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Friday, November 13, 2009 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Los Banos Fairgrounds, Germino Building (near the corner of 5th and F streets) Los Banos, CA	Thursday, November 12, 2009 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

“The County Health Department continues to make H1N1 flu vaccine clinics a top priority,” commented Public Health Director John Volanti. “The updated clinic hours reflect our continued commitment to providing the vaccine on a regular basis to our community as long as we have vaccine available. We have been fortunate to continue receiving vaccine and are hopeful that by December, we will have enough vaccine in the County to vaccinate anyone who wants to be vaccinated. Until then, we are continuing to offer the vaccine to the targeted high-risk groups that are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.”

At the Flu Vaccination Clinics, the Health Department will continue to provide the H1N1 vaccine to individuals in only the target groups listed below, due to the current limited supply, on guidance from the CDC:

- Pregnant women (with note from doctor);
- 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;
- Children – six months through four years of age (with permission from parent/guardian);
- Children – five through eighteen years of age who have chronic medical conditions (with permission from parent/guardian).

Pregnant women need to bring a note from their doctor and children younger than 18 years of age must have permission from their parent/guardian to receive the vaccine. Individuals who have a fever or have received other live vaccines, like 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.

The Health Department is advising people to call their primary health care provider first for a flu vaccination. Residents are urged to check with the health department about vaccine availability prior to traveling to one of the scheduled Special Flu Clinics. 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.

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

For more information regarding Merced County, please visit our website at www.co.merced.ca.us