H1N1 INFLUENZA VIRUS UPDATE

San Bernardino. The County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health has reported eighteen (18) laboratory confirmed and twenty three (23) probable cases of H1N1 Influenza virus to California Department of Public Health (CDPH). To date, a total of 896 cases with two deaths have been reported nationwide.

As we learn more about H1N1 Influenza virus, the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health will continue to relate and implement these measures as required. “This infection is not as severe as we had initially expected,” stated Health Officer Maxwell Ohikuare, M.D. with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. “The public should understand that there is a shared responsibility in reducing the spread of the H1N1 Influenza virus in the community.”

“People who are sick are encouraged to stay home from work or school and to avoid contact with others, except to seek medical care,” urged Maxwell Ohikuare, M.D. This action can help avoid further transmission of the H1N1 Influenza virus.

Parents are being urged not to send their sick children to school or day care centers. Schools are encouraged to focus on early identification of sick students and staff, and to send them home. Parents and teachers should promote good cough and hand hygiene etiquette.
The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health continues to take aggressive action to respond to an expanding outbreak caused by H1N1 Influenza virus. The goal is to reduce transmission, illness severity, and provide information to help health care providers and the public to address the challenges posed by this emergency.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health Operations Center (DOC) has remained at a Level 1 activation to closely monitor response activities, increase disease surveillance, send guidelines for testing and treatment to health care providers, test laboratory specimens, and provide public information.

For more details on H1N1 Influenza, call San Bernardino County Department of Public Health at 1-800-782-4264, Monday-Friday from 8 AM – 5 PM, or visit the website at www.sbcounty.dph.gov. Further information is available at the California Department of Public Health website at www.cdph.ca.gov or call the 24 hour hotline at 1-888-865-0564. You can also access the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/index.htm or call 1-800-232-4636.

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