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H1N1 Flu Vaccine Recall Does Not Affect Safety
Children 6 to 35 Months Do Not Need to be Re-vaccinated

SAN BERNARDINO – The public can be assured the national recall of H1N1 Pediatric Vaccine for children from 6 to 35 months of age, is not related to safety,” stated San Bernardino County Health Officer Maxwell Ohikhuare. The U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a voluntary recall of four lots of Sanofi Pasteur H1N1 Pediatric (0.25 mL.) vaccine in pre-filled syringes, after tests indicated that it didn’t meet potency (or strength) standards. The recalled doses were discovered during routine testing by the manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur.

The California Department of Public Health is still determining how many doses have been delivered to California and will notify the affected providers. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health has received some of the recalled H1N1 vaccine inventory. Dr. Ohikhuare advised that “the vaccine is still expected to be effective in protecting people against the H1N1 virus. There is no need for those who received the vaccine from the affected lots, to get another dose.” He added that “parents of these children do not need to take any action, other than to complete the two-dose immunization series, if not already completed.”

CDC recommends children less than 10 years old to get two doses of H1N1 vaccine approximately one month apart for the best immune response to protect against the virus. Children less than 10 years old who have only received one dose of vaccine so far, should still receive a second dose of 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

For detailed information about the recall, visit the CDC website at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/syringes_qa.htm.

For up-to-date information on H1N1 or seasonal influenza, visit the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health website at www.sbcounty.gov/dph, or call 1 (800) 782-4264. Other useful resources are also available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website at http://www.flu.gov/.

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