



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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HHSA TO TEST ITS EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING MASS VACCINATION DRILL

*Free Flu Shots Offered to First 1,000 Volunteers;
It's Not Too Late to Get Your Shot*

WHAT: Hundreds of people are expected to receive free flu shots during a Mass Vaccination drill, designed to help HHSA (Health and Human Services Agency) test its readiness for a possible health emergency and the need to vaccinate large numbers of people in a short period of time.

WHO: Supervisor Bill Horn, District 5
Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County of San Diego Public Health Officer
County of San Diego HHSA Emergency Medical Services
Members of the public volunteering to participate in the drill and get a free flu shot

WHEN: **Wednesday, November 28, 2007 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**
(10 a.m.--News conference)

WHERE: San Marcos Civic Center
1 Civic Center Drive

WHY: In the event of a large-scale health emergency, HHSA would need to vaccinate thousands of people. This drill is intended to practice the process of moving people through several stations at a Point of Dispensing (POD) site. The first 1,000 volunteers will receive a free flu shot for participating in the drill.

The event, which takes place during National Influenza Vaccination week (Nov. 25 – 30), will also serve as a reminder that November, and even December, is not too late to get a flu shot. Nationally, flu season often peaks in February.

Each year, influenza-related complications are responsible for 36,000 deaths and more than 200,000 hospitalizations.

High risk adult groups — adults age 50 and older, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic diseases, including asthma — are strongly recommended to receive an influenza vaccine.

The event is a joint effort between HHSA's Emergency Medical Services, Immunization Branch, North Regions, and the City of San Marcos.

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