

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kim Saruwatari
Chief, Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Branch
951-358-7100

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFLUENZA SUMMIT STRESSES PLANNING AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

THE GOAL IS TO LIMIT THE IMPACT OF A PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Riverside County, CA – If a widespread pandemic influenza outbreak reaches Riverside County, local leaders want to be ready to respond. They know that the first step is to plan.

Local leaders from public health, business, emergency response, medical, education and community organizations will take part in a summit designed to plan and coordinate a response with public and private partners. The goal is to minimize the impact to our communities when a pandemic reaches Riverside County.

The summit will be held on Tuesday, August 22nd from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Morongo Casino Resort and Spa in Cabazon, CA

"A severe pandemic would inevitably cause significant illness and social and economic disruption. Through this summit we hope to minimize the impact on the population. Community involvement from all sectors is critical to its success," said Dr Gary Feldman, Public Health Officer for Riverside County.

The purpose of the summit, the second in a series, is to expose gaps in existing plans through exploration and exercises. This event will provide the tools to establish a framework for a coordinated response between the communities and the County government to better protect the health and safety of residents and visitors.

"As a leader in emergency preparedness, we have to be ready for the possibility of a pandemic flu. We need everyone involved in this process." stated Mary Moreland, Deputy Director Fire Services, Office of Emergency Services.

For more information on the Riverside County Pandemic Influenza Summit II, please contact the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Branch at 951 358-7100 or visit the website at www.rivcobt.org

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