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Press Release

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H1N1 Nasal Vaccine Offered Countywide Beginning Thursday

Vaccines for the H1N1 flu virus will be available at the county's 10 Family Care clinics starting Thursday (Oct. 15).

The county Department of Public Health and medical providers countywide have received the first shipments of the nasal spray H1N1 flu vaccine. Individuals are encouraged to check first with their health care providers to receive the H1N1 nasal spray vaccination. Initially, staff at county clinics will administer the vaccine to healthy children ages 2 to 12. As more vaccine becomes available, priority groups will be expanded to include all those who should receive the vaccine.

"We urge parents to get their children vaccinated against this new virus," said county Health Officer Eric Frykman. "Vaccination is one of the most important tools residents have to help prevent illness this flu season."

The nasal vaccine is available at the county's Family Care centers in Riverside, Corona, Lake Elsinore, Banning, Jurupa, Perris, Rubidoux, Hemet, Palm Springs and Indio. The nasal vaccine also will be available at mobile pediatric-immunization outreach clinics. For information on the pediatric clinics, visit <http://www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/pdf/ImmunSched-Jul.pdf>.

All Family Care clinics are open weekdays from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Appointments are not required to receive the H1N1 flu vaccination.

Subsequent shipments of the injectible H1N1 flu shot and nasal spray vaccinations are expected by the end of October. Priority for the injectible H1N1 flu vaccine will be given to pregnant women, children aged 6 months to 24 years, health care workers, emergency responders and individuals who work with infants. Information about additional allotments will be available at the county's H1N1 flu page at <http://www.rivcoph.org/h1n1>.

The nasal spray vaccine is not recommended for people with underlying chronic diseases, pregnant women and people age 50 or older. All residents also are recommended to get the seasonal flu vaccine, which does not protect against the H1N1 flu virus.

For a complete list of H1N1 flu clinic locations and times, call (888) 246-1215 or visit www.rivcoph.org. Information about seasonal flu clinics is also available on the county Department of Public Health's Web site.