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September 4, 2009

DEAR BUSINESS PARTNER:

A large scale Pandemic H1N1 flu vaccination campaign will be conducted this fall. The Department of Public Health will implement a comprehensive plan once the vaccine is available. In addition, **Public Health is continuing the Pandemic H1N1 activities that began in April, including:**

- Conducting influenza surveillance
- Coordinating provision of seasonal flu vaccine
- Promoting prevention messages to limit the spread of disease in communities
- Communicating risk and disease updates

Your relationship with LA County residents makes you a crucial Public Health partner. **We will look to you to share the following key prevention messages with your employees, clients and contacts:**

1. Cover your cough and wash your hands often with soap and water.
2. Stay home when you're sick. Don't return to work until 24 hours after a fever goes away.
3. Get a seasonal flu shot to protect against other types of flu.
4. Get pandemic H1N1 vaccine if you fall into one of the CDC vaccination priority groups:
  - All people ages 6 months to 24 years
  - People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
  - All pregnant women
  - Healthcare and emergency medical personnel
  - People ages 25-64 who have chronic health conditions like asthma or diabetes.

Keeping daily operations running requires planning. Encourage your staff to create back-up plans to assure care for sick family members. Get tools for maintaining a healthy workplace and communicating with your staff at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/business/toolkit/> or <http://www.flu.gov/plan/workplaceplanning/toolkit.html>.

Public Health is committed to serving as your source of timely and reliable information. We will provide follow-up messages as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) releases more information. For the latest information, guidance for creating continuity plans, or requesting a Pandemic H1N1 presentation for your organization, please visit our website at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>. Receive our latest updates by joining our DPH UPDATE listserv. To join the listserv, email [Listserv@listserv.ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:Listserv@listserv.ph.lacounty.gov) and include "subscribe DPHUPDATE first name last name" in the subject line and body.

Each of us has an important role in keeping our communities healthy. You remain a valued partner we know we can call upon to support our response.

Sincerely,

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer