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September 4, 2009

DEAR COMMUNITY BASED 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 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.
5. Create back-up plans to keep daily operations running and assure care for sick family members.

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. We will need your continued support to disseminate these messages as they become available.

For the latest information or to request a Pandemic H1N1 presentation for your organization, please visit our website at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>. Receive our latest community updates by joining our DPH UPDATE listserv. To join the listserv, email 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