



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Stanislaus County Health Services Agency Offers Free Flu Vaccinations to the Public During a Mass-Vaccination Exercise on October 16, 2007

STANISLAUS COUNTY – The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency will be offering FREE-of-charge flu vaccinations to the public, for people 6-months-old or older regardless of their health status. This will be available during a special clinic to be held Tuesday, October 16 from 2 – 6 p.m. at Centenary United Methodist Church located off McHenry Avenue, just north of Briggsmore Avenue. This free vaccination clinic is part of a mass-vaccination exercise conducted by the HSA Emergency Preparedness program, and made possible through state and federal grant funds.

“We’re excited to have this opportunity to protect the health of our community by offering these free flu shots in addition to the annual community flu vaccination clinics that we provide throughout the county,” said Dr. John Walker, Stanislaus County Public Health Officer. Each year, the Agency coordinates several community flu vaccination clinics to provide low-cost flu shots to seniors and people in other high risk groups including children under 5-years-old and people with chronic illnesses. Last year, approximately 9,000 shots were administered through the community flu vaccination clinics held throughout the county and at the main HSA Public Health Clinic. The 2,000 flu shots provided through the mass vaccination exercise will not affect the availability of flu shots provided through these traditional offerings.

“This may be the best time to get a flu shot this year,” said Nancy Fisher, Assistant Director of HSA Public Health Services, and Incident Commander for the vaccination exercise. “Not only is it a chance to get your annual flu shot for free, but this is also an exciting opportunity to help your community prepare for a public health emergency.”

The exercise will help the Agency prepare for a real mass vaccination clinic, which would be an important part of the emergency response to a pandemic flu outbreak. The exercise is funded by state and federal grants received by the HSA Emergency Preparedness program. In addition to HSA, several other community partners will also participate in this exercise, including Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services, Modesto Police Department, American Red Cross, Stanislaus County Behavioral Health Services, Memorial Medical Center and Doctors Medical Center.

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