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## **PUBLIC HEALTH REMINDS COMMUNITY THERE'S STILL H1N1 PANDEMIC INFLUENZA VACCINE AVAILABLE**

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. — There are no longer any restrictions on who can receive H1N1 vaccine and everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated. Local hospitals are partnering with the Public Health Department to provide mass vaccination clinics for the public. A clinic will be held at Feather River Health Center at 5125 Skyway in Paradise on Sunday, January 24, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm (or as supplies last). There will be vaccine available for both adults and children. Please do not arrive before 10:30. For more information call 876-7283.

In the south county, a clinic will be held at the Health Services Center at Biggs-Gridley Hospital on Wednesday, January 27, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The hospital is located at 240 Spruce Street in Gridley. All ages are welcome. There will be a \$2.00 administration fee or they will bill Medi-Care. For more information call 846-9082. There is also an Oroville clinic being planned for the first week in February. Information on the Oroville clinic will be provided to the public as soon as it is available.

Cases of H1N1 flu have declined over the past two months, but health officials warn that there could be a third wave of flu this winter. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 1 in 6 people in the U.S. have been infected with H1N1 flu. That leaves 5 out of 6 people still vulnerable. According to a recently released CDC report, 88.4% of adults aged <65 years with medical conditions that increase their risk for influenza-related complications remain unvaccinated. Medical conditions that increase risk for flu complications include asthma, chronic lung or heart disease, and diabetes, to name a few.

“Among adults hospitalized with H1N1 flu, approximately three fourths had at least one high-risk condition,” stated Mark Lundberg, M.D., Health Officer at Butte County Public Health. “It is concerning that only 11.6% of people with high-risk medical conditions have been vaccinated, because these are the people who are much more likely to become seriously ill with H1N1 flu.”

The CDC report also showed that less than 30% of children aged 6 months to 18 years have been vaccinated. In addition, many

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children under age 10 have not received the recommended second dose of H1N1 flu vaccine, according to a recent USA Today poll. Immunization registry records from 10 states showed that up to 80% of children had not received the second dose. No state had more than half of children with the second dose.

“Children are at high risk from H1N1 flu,” stated Lundberg. “Although one dose is enough for older children, those younger than 10 need two doses given about a month apart to make enough antibodies to be fully protected.” The booster is still effective even if given weeks late, he said.

The upcoming vaccination clinics will provide an opportunity for those who have not yet been vaccinated to protect themselves, and for children under age 10 to receive a second dose for full protection. For more information on pandemic H1N1 vaccine visit the Butte County Public Health website at [www.buttecounty.net/publichealth](http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth) or call the toll-free information line at 1-866-444-2405.

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### **Butte County Public Health Department**

Our Mission: To protect the public through promoting individual,  
community and environmental health.