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H1N1 Swine Flu Mass Vaccination Clinic Scheduled for Bill Graham Civic Auditorium

High-Risk Priority Groups Still Target of Vaccine

San Francisco, CA – Now would be a good time for individuals who are in the high-risk group for H1N1 swine flu to call their healthcare provider to see if he or she has received a recent shipment of vaccine. According to the California Department of Public Health, more H1N1 swine flu vaccine has arrived in San Francisco and has been delivered to private physician's offices and hospitals.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health has scheduled a mass vaccination clinic for **Tuesday, December 22, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.** at **Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove St.** for **high risk residents of San Francisco** whose healthcare providers have not ordered or received the H1N1 swine flu vaccine. The clinic also provides the opportunity for children less than 10 years of age to receive their second dose of vaccine – if the first dose was received before December 1. Children can also get their first dose of the vaccine that day.

“We are looking to vaccinate about 16,000 high-risk individuals,” said Susan Fernyak, MD, Director of Communicable Disease Control & Prevention. “This event is a true public health effort that will help protect not just those who get the vaccine, but will keep the virus from spreading throughout the general population. That benefits everyone.”

The H1N1 swine flu pandemic has, so far, affected fewer people than health officials originally feared and, except in rare instances, has shown itself to be a mild form of the disease. But while it has maintained a moderate rate of infection and intensity, it has also, for some in the high-risk groups, proven to be a deadly illness.

High-risk priority groups are:

- Pregnant women
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- People who live with or provide care for infants less than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency responders with direct patient contact
- Adults ages 25-64 with medical conditions that put them at risk for complications from influenza (heart, lung or kidney disease, asthma, diabetes, or weakened immune system)
- Children less than 10 years old needing their second dose of H1N1 vaccine (first dose of vaccine must have been received before December 1)

The Department is also looking for clinical and non-clinical volunteers to help with the mass vaccination event. Volunteers can go to <http://www.sfcdep.org/volunteerflu.html>. For more information about H1N1 and vaccine updates, visit www.sfcdep.org/flu or call 311.

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