

CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE

PRESS RELEASE ISSUE DATE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE H1N1 PANDEMIC AND INFLUENZA DISEASE PLAN

At the October 27, 2009 meeting, the Arroyo Grande City Council approved an H1N1 Pandemic and Influenza Disease Plan for City operations. While all hopes are for a mild flu season, the City is preparing for the worst case scenario to have contingency plans in place for major potential impacts from the H1N1 virus.

The plan includes both preventative measures, as well as steps to address the impacts of a widespread outbreak. According to City Manager Steven Adams, "the major challenge the City is likely to face is how to maintain basic service delivery if staffing is severely impacted." Therefore, the goal is to have measures approved and in place that can be quickly activated if necessary. Specific objectives of the planning effort include the following:

- Maintain the health and well-being of City personnel and their families
- Ensure continued public service and continuity of government capabilities to maintain critical services the community depends upon.
- Institute preventive measures in all City workplaces.
- Promote proper hygiene and other measures to prevent the spread of the disease.
- Monitor the health of employees to ensure they receive proper and appropriate care.
- Encourage employees and their families to become vaccinated for both seasonal flu and H1N1 if available.

Of particular concern is the limited capacity for the City to accommodate temporary staffing reductions given the adjustments implemented to address the budget shortfall over the last two-year period. As a result, the plan includes staffing contingency plans prepared by each department. For planning purposes, each department assumed a 25% reduction in available staffing at any given time. A number of measures are included that involve cross training of staff, cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions and prioritization of existing workload and services. Where services cannot be maintained, tasks and services that will be delayed are identified.

Public Safety staff are coordinating with countywide planning efforts and recently participated in a vaccination drill. Training and sanitation supplies have been purchased

and distributed to each department. Employees have been educated on ways to both detect symptoms early and prevent the spread of the disease. Employees displaying symptoms of the virus will be required to go home. Those that confirm they have the H1N1 flu will be required to remain home until 24 hours after the fever has subsided. When determined feasible by the department director, employees may work at home when necessary to care for family members or at the initial or final stages of the illness when they feel well enough to work.

**/s/ STEVEN ADAMS
CITY MANAGER**

DATE: 11/3/09

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