

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health District and Community Partners Act to Develop Flu Shot Plan

(Las Vegas, Nev., - October 8, 2004) – The Clark County Health District met with health care providers and community partners today to assess local flu vaccine availability. It was stressed during the meeting that Clark County is not in a crisis situation at this time. The flu season typically starts later in Nevada and no activity has been detected to date.

Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer for the Clark County Health District, is asking providers with available flu shots to suspend clinic activities to allow time for development of a community distribution plan. This plan will help assure the needs of at-risk individuals are prioritized and flu shots administered to those most in need.

University Medical Center and MGM/Mirage have voluntarily turned over doses (2,500 and 4,000 respectively) directly to the health district to be used in this community-wide effort.

“Providers and community partners are pooling resources and working together to assure we come up with a plan that best meets the needs of our at-risk community. I’d like to especially thank University Medical Center and MGM/Mirage for their generosity,” said Dr. Kwalick.

Preliminary numbers of available flu shots are being assembled based on input provided at this meeting. Attendees will report back at a follow-up meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 12 on the availability of additional doses and the group will begin finalizing the community-wide distribution plan.

Healthy adults and children can take precautions to help ensure they remain healthy during the upcoming flu season. Recommendations include following these easy steps to curb the spread of germs:

- Cough or sneeze into a tissue and then throw it away.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing if you do not have a tissue.
- Wash your hands often and clean them every time you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands for 15-20 seconds – children can sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” to ensure they wash them for the proper length of time.

NOTE: Clark County Health District staff and partners will be available Tuesday, October 12, 2004 at 2:30 p.m. in the Clemens Room to provide an update on the community partners meeting and community distribution plan.

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