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STATE EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR H1N1 VACCINE

(Carson City, NV) – Nevada State Health Officer Dr. Tracey Green today announced that starting Dec. 11, 2009, Nevadans aged 25 and over with underlying medical conditions will be eligible to receive H1N1 vaccines. This expands the five priority groups to include those over 64 years old with underlying medical conditions.

The change is a consensus decision reached between Dr. Green and the public health officers at the Southern Nevada Health District, Washoe County Health District and Carson City Health and Human Services. Public health authorities and private providers will be eligible to vaccinate this expanded population.

“While we don’t want to lose ground on vaccinating the five priority groups that have been eligible to date, opening up eligibility to people 25 and older with underlying medical conditions lets us get more vaccine into people, providing broader protection for the public and those people with conditions that make them more susceptible to serious illness as a result of infection.”

State officials believe there is adequate supply of the vaccine to expand to this additional eligibility group while still working to saturate the original five priority groups. The public health officers have scheduled a meeting for early January 2010 to discuss opening up eligibility to the entire population.

“Vaccination is the most effective way Nevadans can protect themselves and their families from illness this holiday season,” Dr. Green said.

To date, Nevada has received 477,400 doses of H1N1 vaccine, and more than 100,000 additional doses are expected to arrive within the next two weeks.

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