

Thank you indeed to all the providers who have lead the way in this new Public Health and EMS collaborative endeavor for the benefit of our community. These scheduled additional vaccination clinics are the ideal opportunity to maximize the training and mentoring experience from the Public Health Dept. staff on this new paramedic skill set. Please encourage your authorized personnel to attend these very important clinics; and as well as let the EMS Agency assist in the authorization process for those who are interested in participating for the first time.

Thanks again for the vision to expand the scope of pre-hospital care in San Luis Obispo county!

Tom R

Thomas Ronay, MD, FACEP
Medical Director
San Luis Obispo County EMSA, Inc

Hello All,

On December 15 and 16, the Public Health Department (PHD) held all day H1N1 vaccination clinics at 3 PH locations - Paso Robles, SLO and Grover Beach. Nearly 6000 people were vaccinated in that 2 day span. The success of the operation would not have been as tremendous as it was had we not had the paramedic resources assigned from Cal Fire, PR FD and SLO FD.

This new type of collaboration between ALS providers and the PHD was possible through use of new local EMSA policies (121B and 121B.1) that allow for expanded Paramedic Scope of Practice to include vaccination.

To date, the PHD has administered over 25,000 H1N1 influenza vaccine doses. The private sector has received another 50,000 doses (we are working on getting information on how many of those doses have actually been administered.) That leaves almost 200,000 unvaccinated residents. An additional 60,000 doses will be available to County providers over the next 6 weeks or so. We know that demand for vaccine still exists as evident from our non-advertised, walk-ins of about 300-500/day in the past week.

Thus we have decided to hold additional large clinics to accommodate those still looking for vaccine and to do so in the most efficient manner. We are planning to hold the additional clinics on January 12-13, 2010 for 5 hours each day, 14:00-17:00. We are requesting additional resources from the above named ALS providers who participated in last week's clinics, and invite other ALS providers to participate after obtaining approval of a Paramedic Vaccinator Program from the SLO EMSA, Inc. Interested providers who represent Fire Departments should coordinate through Cal Fire Division Chief Rob Lewin, who has so ably coordinated efforts of the three existing approved programs. Other interested ALS providers/ambulance companies may wish to consult as well with Chief Lewin or should feel free to contact my office or EMSA, Inc. for guidance in obtaining program approval.

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH
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San Luis Obispo County