

Martin Fenstersheib, MD, MPH
Health Officer

976 Lenzen Avenue | Second Floor Administration
San Jose, CA 95126
408.792.3798 | 408.792.3799 fax

Public Health Department

Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 6, 2009

To: Santa Clara County Paramedic Coordinators

From: Martin Fenstersheib, MD, MPH
Health Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Fenstersheib, MD, MPH".

Subject: Paramedic Optional Scope of Practice
H1N1/Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

In order to better prepare the County for the H1N1 Influenza response, Dr. Ghilarducci and Josh Davies from our EMS Agency submitted a request to the State EMS Authority to enable paramedics to administer H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccine. The Paramedic Optional Scope of Practice Request is currently under review by the State EMS Authority.

The County requested this approval should it be necessary to authorize paramedics to administer vaccine under my directive. We will continue to monitor the situation, however at this time, it is not necessary to implement the additional Scope of Practice.

The role of first responders during this pandemic is critical. It is very important that the County maintains a robust and healthy workforce of responders, especially emergency medical technicians and paramedics. I would encourage all EMT's and paramedics to receive both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 vaccines as it becomes available. It is likely that requests for service will increase and the demand on the EMS and Public Health System will continue to rise.

In order to support the vaccination needs of the County, the Board of Supervisors Proclaimed a Local Emergency on September 29, 2009. This action will enable County vaccination efforts to be increased with the support of a greater pool of resources that routinely administer vaccination services. In addition, I have activated our federal Medical Reserve Cops, Medical Volunteers for Disaster Response, to augment existing Medical Health resources.

Thank you for your continued support to our Medical Health System. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Anne Marcotte at the number provided or via email at anne.marcotte@hhs.sccgov.org

cc: David Ghilarducci, MD, EMS Medical Director
Josh Davies, Interim EMS Division Manager

Dedicated to the health of the whole community

The Public Health Department is a division of Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System, owned and operated by the County of Santa Clara.