Preventing Pandemic Influenza

WHAT: Residents are invited to a presentation by the Health Officer of Santa Clara County about the possibility of pandemic influenza and the serious impact it would have on this community. Dr. Martin Fenstersheib, Health Officer, will provide information about Avian and Pandemic Influenza, preparation activities, the chances for a global pandemic of influenza, as well as what the public health actions residents can expect, and what steps individuals can take to protect themselves and their families.

Handouts will include “Your Guide to Preparing for the Pandemic Flu,” a practical guide that provides information about Avian Influenza, the differences between seasonal flu and pandemic flu, how you can help to limit the spread of disease at home, and other useful information.

WHO: Martin D. Fenstersheib, M.D., MPH, Health Officer
Health Advisory Commission

WHEN: Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Government Center
70 W. Hedding St., San Jose

WHY: Understanding pandemic influenza is the best way to prepare. The Santa Clara County Public Health Department is working to help the public, local government, organizations and business prepare and limit the spread of this disease.

Pandemic influenza is a worldwide outbreak of a new influenza virus for which there is little or no immunity in the human population. Health professionals believe the current strain of avian influenza may develop into the next human pandemic, which could spread easily from person to person, causing serious illness and death.

If a “major” pandemic of influenza were to happen, it is estimated that 25-35% (450,000 to 620,000 residents) of Santa Clara County’s population would become ill, with 61,000-143,000 of those people hospitalized, and there could be 20,000-30,000 fatalities countywide.

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