



H1N1 update from:

The Flu Crew

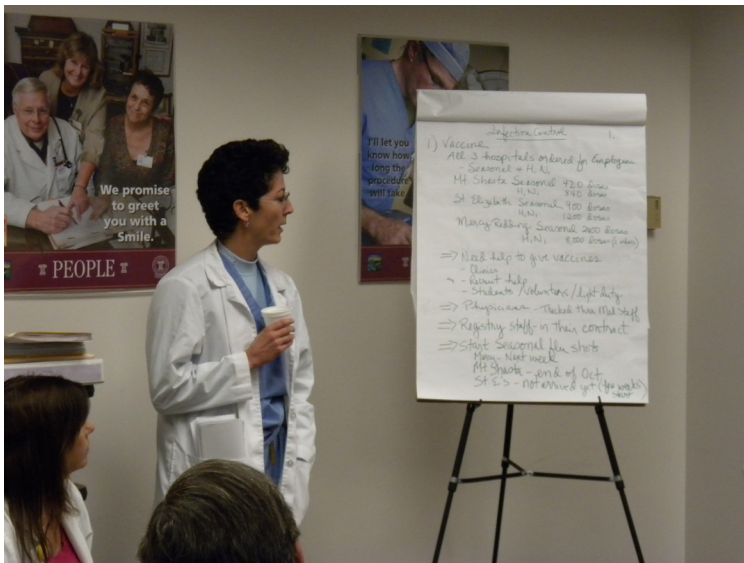


CHW North State

Mercy Medical Center Redding | Mercy Medical Center Mt. Shasta | St. Elizabeth Community Hospital

With the flu season rapidly approaching and the potential for the H1N1 virus to continue spreading through our communities, the CHW North State leadership team decided to engage on a system-wide planning effort. With the theme of Working Together to be Prepared, representatives of Mercy Medical Center Mt Shasta (MMCMS), St. Elizabeth Community Hospital (SECH) in Red Bluff and Mercy Medical Center Redding (MMCR) came together to develop a unified action plan to address the potential influx of patients seeking care for the H1N1 virus.

Morris Eagleman, Vice President of Patient Care Services at MMCMS facilitated the meeting and stressed the importance of the hospitals to be prepared and to support one another in meeting the needs of the communities we serve. "As we begin each meeting at CHW with a reflection, I'd like to reiterate the one used at our kick-off meeting because it summed up our efforts and responsibility well: 'The only thing harder to do than planning for a disaster is to explain to the general public why you didn't.'", Morris said.



The organizational meeting focused on developing a coordinated response to address a potentially severe H1N1 outbreak. Nearly 50 employees participated in various workgroups that developed action plans to address the issues of respiratory care, security, laboratory testing, human resources, admitting, emergency services/bed capacity, medical staff, pharmacy, materials management/supply inventory, disaster planning and communications/community relations. Representatives from Shasta County and Tehama County Public Health Department also assisted the workgroups in their planning efforts. The next step in the process is to join the Shasta, Tehama and Siskiyou Public Health Departments in meeting with other community hospitals to widen the unified approach in the North State to any H1N1 severe outbreak. "We always want to work with

other community hospitals but we thought it was important for us to first understand the scope of our internal resources before taking that step," explained Eagleman.

The employees who gathered for the initial meeting chose the team name of "The Flu Crew" to help share their mission with other hospital employees, medical staff members and volunteers. To learn more about H1N1, visit with your infection control coordinator or watch your newsletter for more information.