# Solano County Public Health Briefs



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Welcome to the Solano County Public Health Briefs. This report is published semi-annually and informs readers about current public health issues. Please let us know how the Briefs can better meet your needs by sending an email to <a href="mailto:tboucher@solanocounty.com">tboucher@solanocounty.com</a>. Thanks for taking your valuable time to read this report.

### H1N1 Flu Update

By Leah Carlon, MPH, Cal-EIS Fellow

The H1N1 flu virus was first detected in the United States in April 2009, and since then has continued to spread person-to-person. We are currently trying to prevent further spread by encouraging good hygiene practices, staying home when you are sick and getting the vaccine when it is available.

We have held H1N1 vaccination clinics in Vacaville, Suisun, Benicia, Rio Vista, Vallejo, and Dixon. Through these clinics we have been able to vaccinate over 7400 people! The clinics targeted the priority risk groups including: pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, healthcare and emergency medical services personnel, persons between the ages 6 months and 24 years old, and people ages 25 through 64 who are at higher risk for H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.



H1N1 vaccine supply has not been available in the quantity originally anticipated, and has therefore been arriving in very limited quantities throughout Solano County. More vaccine should be available and distributed to providers throughout the winter months. If you have not already done so, there is still time to register and order vaccine at <a href="http://www.calpanflu.org">http://www.calpanflu.org</a>

Phone numbers to remember:

Ronald W. Chapman, MD, MPH Health Officer (707) 784-8600

Michael W. Stacey, MD Deputy Health Officer CD&TB Controller (707) 784-8600

Patrick O. Duterte Director Health & Social Services (707) 784-8400

Communicable Disease Reporting Line: (707) 553-5555



### **County Clinics Welcome New Buildings**

By Holly Garcia, RD, MPH, Health Services Manager

Fall 2009 brought new energy to Family Health Services (FHS), Solano County's medical clinics. Two new buildings, funded by the Tobacco Master Settle Agreement, opened just adjacent to the "old" locations. The medical clinics are now located at 365

Tuolumne Street in Vallejo and 2201 Courage Drive in Fairfield. FHS continues to offer comprehensive adult and pediatric primary care, as well as some specialty clinics including women's health, HIV, limited Hepatitis C treatment, STD and TB. FHS is open during normal business hours as well as evening and weekends.

The state of the art facilities allow FHS to continue responding to an increased demand for high quality medical services from the most vulnerable members of our community. The number of exam rooms was doubled which will allow expansion of services in alignment with community need, including additional pediatric care in Fairfield. Each room was wired for

electronic health records, which will facilitate FHS implementation of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant that supports implementation of new practice management and electronic health records systems. The new buildings are also home to other Health and Social Services Department programs including the Napa-Solano Public Health Laboratory.

# WIC Nutrition Program Adds Fresh Produce and Other Healthy Foods

By Denise Kirnig, RD, MS, Nutrition Services Manager

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program implemented a major overhaul in the foods provided in this federal assistance program. Based on a scientific overhaul designed by the Institute of Medicine, the healthy changes will align WIC foods with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to receive healthier foods and recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics to support and promote breastfeeding, for the first time in the 35-year history of the program.

Starting October 1, 2009, a million poor California families (over 10,000 poor Solano County residents) are able to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and soy products with their WIC checks. These nutrient-dense, lower-fat items will replace some of the juice, milk, cheese and eggs traditionally offered by WIC to low-income pregnant women and their children under five. WIC families now receive a greater variety of foods and more choices. In addition, the new WIC food package provides the following incentives to breastfeed:



- Formula amounts in the package tied to breastfeeding practice and age of infant.
- Higher market value of the package for fully breastfeeding mothers and their infants.
- Fully breastfeeding mothers receive the most variety and largest quantity of food, including \$10 cash value for fruits and vegetables.
- Juice eliminated in favor of baby food fruits and vegetables to promote a healthy eating pattern for all infants.
- Fully breastfeeding infants over 6 months receive larger quantities of baby food fruits and vegetables and baby food meat.

To be eligible for WIC, pregnant, breastfeeding and post-partum mothers and young children up to age five must be low-income (annual income at or below \$33,000 for a three-person family) and at nutritional risk. Call 784-8130 for more information about how to refer to the WIC program or more information about the changes to the WIC foods.

# Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program (MMIC)

By Jill Cook, MS, RN, PHN, Public Health Administrator

In 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215, also known as the Compassionate Use Act of 1996. Proposition 215 was passed to give seriously ill Californians the right to possess and use marijuana (also know as cannabis) for medical purposes, when they have a recommendation from a physician. Proposition 215 gives the primary caregiver the right to cultivate and possess medical cannabis for patient consumption. Proposition 215 defines a "primary caregiver" as "the individual who has consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, or safety of the medical cannabis user."

The Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program was implemented in Solano County in September 2009. The Solano County website offers information about the program, the applicants' responsibilities and guidelines, a link to verify the validity of the card and an FAQ section.

#### SELECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORT

## (Rates = number of cases/100,000 population)

Source: Automated Vital Statistics System California Department of Public Health

Disease	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Chlamydia	1320	1432	1584	1776	1890	2088
Solano Rate	318.3	342.9	377.9	421	445.8	492.5
CA Rate	323.8	338.7	350	365.7	379.2	385.4
Gonorrhea	250	297	408	353	341	312
Solano Rate	60.3	71.1	97.3	83.7	80.4	73.0
CA Rate	71.5	83.6	92.4	90.5	82.6	66.7
Syphillis 1° and 2°	2	4	9	4	6	5
Solano Rate	0.5	1.0	2.1	0.9	1.4	1.2
CA Rate	3.6	3.7	4.4	5	5.5	5.7
HIV *	6	64	35	24	205	79
Solano Rate	1.4	15.3	8.6	5.7	48.5	18.7
CA Rate	9.3	11	7.9	4.8	11.9	**
AIDS*	35	51	45	81	87	42
Solano Rate	8.4	12.2	10.7	19.1	20.6	9.9
CA Rate	7.1	9.3	5.9	5.8	9.4	**
Meningitis-bacterial	3	1	7	2	6	0
Solano Rate	0.7	0.2	1.7	0.5	1.4	0
CA Rate	1.3	1.1	1	1	0.9	**
Meningococcal meningitis	3	4	1	1	0	0
Solano Rate	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.2	0	0
CA Rate	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	**
Menigitis-viral	45	25	22	16	19	20
Solano Rate	10.8	6	5.2	3.8	4.7	4.7
CA Rate	14.3	9.8	7.3	4.7	5.4	**
Salmonellosis	56	45	51	69	51	51
Solano Rate	13.5	10.8	12.1	16.1	11.8	11.8
CA Rate	11.5	11.8	12.3	13.2	12.1	**
Tuberculosis	30	42	41	27	37	33
Solano Rate	7.2	10	9.4	6.4	8.7	7.6
CA Rate	9	8.2	7.9	7.4	7.2	7
Hepatitis A	13	5	9	5	14	7
Solano Rate	3.1	1.2	2.1	1.2	3.3	1.7
CA Rate	3.1	2.4	3	2.3	1.5	**
Pertussis	18	24	9	1	4	4
Solano Rate	4.3	5.7	2.1	0.2	0.9	0.9
CA Rate	2.8	3.1	8.7	4.5	1.8	**

NOTE: THIS REPORT REFLECTS CASES AS THEY ARE REPORTED BY PROVIDERS.

<sup>\*</sup> On April 17, 2006, HIV names reporting became effective. 2007 and 2008 figures contain non-name HIV/AIDS cases that were reascertained as well as newly diagnosed cases. Number reflects total number of cases in Solano County (General population cases + prison cases).

<sup>\*\*</sup> Data not yet available.

Qualified patients can visit <a href="http://www.solanocounty.com/publichealth">http://www.solanocounty.com/publichealth</a> and download an application for the program. If potential patients do not have access to a computer, they can call 211 to request an application and obtain additional information. Public Health does not provide legal advice or dispensary location information. The program is offered by appointment only.

For more information regarding California's Medical Marijuana Program, please visit the California Department of Public Health website at http://www.cdph.ca.gov.



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