

A few weeks ago, I sent out some information about how to stay healthy during this year's flu season. Since then, however, my office has received a number of calls from constituents who are concerned because they have had difficulty accessing the H1N1 vaccine.

I understand your concerns, which is why I have been fighting to ensure that Santa Clara County is getting our share of the vaccine. Unfortunately, the companies producing the vaccine cannot make it fast enough to meet the demand in all fifty states. New shipments are being sent out slowly, and many regions have long waiting lists of people who need it. The vaccine is distributed to the states by the Federal government, and the states are then responsible for distributing the vaccines to individual counties and localities. I believe that despite the shortage, it is essential that we continue working to ensure that vaccines are distributed to local jurisdictions in a fair manner. I recently learned that Santa Clara County has not been receiving a proportionate share based on our population, and I spoke with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to stress the importance of holding states accountable, and ensuring that vaccines are being distributed fairly and proportionately. The CDC has promised to provide me with the information about federal-, state- and county-level oversight, which I will use to continue advocating for Santa Clara County to get our fair share.

In the meantime, I want to provide some additional information about how those who need it may be able to access the vaccine.

In our area, the vaccine is being distributed by the [Santa Clara County Public Health Department](#). Though the County has received only a limited supply at this point, public health officials are working to ensure that those who are most at-risk of illness or complications from the H1N1 virus can access the vaccine.

The County Public Health Department has distributed the vaccine to a wide variety of clinics, hospitals, and healthcare providers in the area. If you need the vaccine, you are advised to first consult your doctor or primary care provider to see if they can provide it to you. The County Public Health Department is recommending that the following groups get the vaccine first.

- Pregnant women
- Children and young adults between the ages of six months and 24 years
- People who live with or provide care for infants under six months

- Adults between the ages of 25 and 64 years who have a medical condition that puts them at risk for serious illness and death from the H1N1 virus
- Healthcare and emergency service workers

People in these groups who do not have a primary care provider may wish to attend one of the County's upcoming vaccination fairs; Sunday, November 15, and Saturday November 21, between the hours of 9:30am and 3:30pm, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, located at 334 Tully Rd, San Jose, CA 95111.

NOTE: If you are attempting to get the vaccine, you should bring identification, or other documentation to demonstrate that you fit into the above categories. These fairs are expected to be extremely crowded, so attendees should be prepared to wait for several hours, if needed. People are also advised not to attend if they are sick, as they will not be able to receive the vaccine.

Limited doses of the vaccine are will also be available this weekend at the following locations:

GARDNER HEALTH CENTER CLINICS ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 Hours of operation – 9am to 4pm

Alviso Health Center 1621 Gold Street Alviso, CA 95002 [View Map](#)

Gardner Health Center 195 E. Virginia Street San Jose, CA 95112 [View Map](#)

VALLEY HEALTH CENTER CLINICS ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 Hours of operation – 9:30am to 3:30pm

Valley Health Center Gilroy 7475 Camino Arroyo Gilroy, CA 95020 [View Map](#)

Valley Health Center Moorpark 2400 Moorpark Avenue San Jose, CA 95128 [View Map](#)

Valley Health Center Sunnyvale 660 S. Fair Oaks Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94086 [View Map](#)