



## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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## Two Additional Flu Deaths in Stanislaus County for 2017

**Stanislaus County** – Stanislaus County Health Services Agency (HSA) officials are reporting the second and third influenza (flu) -associated deaths for the 2016/2017 flu season in people under 65 years of age. One of the deceased, a 57-year-old male, with a history of underlying medical conditions, died on January 15, 2017. The other, a 41-year-old male with no previous medical conditions, died on January 18, 2017. Additionally, an infant under the age of two has been transferred out of the area and placed in intensive care due to influenza-like illness.

“Stanislaus County, like much of the state, is experiencing a more serious flu season compared to last year,” said Public Health Officer John Walker. “The best thing people can do to protect themselves is to get vaccinated for the flu. The recent complications reported with an infant in our County further emphasize the importance of pregnant women and family members of children less than six months of age getting the vaccine.”

Each season’s vaccine provides protection against the most common strains of flu. The importance of getting vaccinated was also highlighted by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), which stated today that the state is experiencing more severe, widespread influenza activity compared to last year. CDPH also received the first report of a death associated with influenza in a child younger than 18 years of age.

“I encourage people who have an onset of fever along with a cough or sore throat to contact their medical provider immediately,” Walker said.

In addition to getting vaccinated, people should remember to protect themselves and others from flu and other respiratory illnesses by washing their hands frequently, covering all coughs and sneezes and staying home if they are sick.

There is more information on the flu, including a vaccine finder, at <http://www.schsa.org/pages/flu.shtm>. People can get their vaccine at the County HSA Public Health Clinic, located at 820 Scenic Drive, Modesto, CA 95350 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and also on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. People can also contact their health care provider or Health Services Agency Public Health at (209) 558-7400 to find out where to get the flu vaccine.

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