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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Nevada State Health Division's Public Health Preparedness Program Receives Silver Syringe Award

Carson City – The Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition (NNIC) has awarded the Public Health Preparedness program a Silver Syringe award for Outstanding Rural Immunization Program. The award will be presented during a special luncheon at 12:00 p.m. on February 26th, 2010. The Silver Syringe luncheon will be held at Saint Mary's Hospital Auditorium (C).

Beginning in November staff from the Health Division began deploying its Mobile Support Unit (MSU) in order to offer H1N1 vaccinations in rural communities, using a standard Points of Dispensing (POD) operation. The November deployment involved four communities down the I-80 corridor. This involved 10 staff and multiple community volunteers. The December deployment involved communities located down Highway 50 and included seven staff and again, many community volunteers. The last deployment in January to Las Vegas to vaccinate Department of Public Safety and Nevada Highway Patrol staff and family members included seven state employees, five Carson City Health and Human Services staff and local volunteers. The total number of vaccines given during all of the deployments was a little over 4,500.

State Health Officer, Dr. Tracey D. Green said, "When the Health Division deployed its MSU in response to local requests to bolster local capacity for H1N1 vaccine dispensing, we brought a standardized and modular POD design with us. This design was shared with local partners in an effort to standardize how we each conduct POD operations. Although this modular design was used for H1N1 vaccine dispensing, it can also be used for any type of mass dispensing situation. Local partners are now familiar with this modular POD design and have operational experience with it. Should a rural county need to respond it can now turn to neighboring counties and everyone will be sharing the same operational POD operation."

For more information about H1N1 flu, go to <http://flu.nv.gov>.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracey D. Green MD".

Tracey D. Green, State Health Officer

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