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More than 1,400 vaccinated in free Calabasas clinic

By Mike Harris

Posted November 15, 2009 at 12:01 a.m.

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A line of cars snaked for more than a mile along Agoura Road on Saturday, filled with people hoping to get the H1N1 flu vaccine at a free drive-through clinic at the Agoura Hills-Calabasas Community Center.

The Calabasas clinic was originally scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., but because of the turnout, it was extended for about 90 minutes, organizers said.

People in 514 cars received vaccinations, said Kerry Kallman, the event's public information officer. H1N1 vaccinations were given to 1,324 eligible people, including pregnant women, children and young adults, and seasonal flu vaccinations were given to 128 people.

The clinic was put on by the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu and Westlake Village as well as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the community center and Pierce College.

It was part of an emergency preparedness point of distribution exercise aimed at strengthening public safety agencies' ability to dispense food, water and medicine to large groups of people in the event of a public health disaster.

The H1N1 flu pandemic presented organizers with an opportunity to give the exercise a real-world application, Kallman said.

"With recent events, this became a little bit more than just an exercise," he said.

Joelle Perlmutter, 37, a business analyst from Calabasas, brought her twin 3-year-old sons, Ethan and Daniel, to get their H1N1 vaccines.

"We couldn't get them at our doctor's office because they ran out," she said, sitting with her sons outside the community center as her husband, Jay Perlmutter, stayed in the family car in line. "The doctor said, 'As soon as we get more vaccines, we'll call you.' And we're still waiting."

Scott Mahler, 45, a computer programmer from Agoura Hills, sat a few yards away from Perlmutter. His wife, Rachel, and their two children, Andrew, 13, and Danielle, 11, kept their place in the long line of cars.

Mahler said his children, too, were on their pediatrician's waiting list for the vaccine.

"And that's been for the last month, and they have no idea when they're going to get the shots," Mahler said. "So since this was available, we did it."

Mahler said his family got in line at about 7:40 a.m. By 11 a.m., they were still in line.

He said being able to get his children vaccinated was worth the wait.

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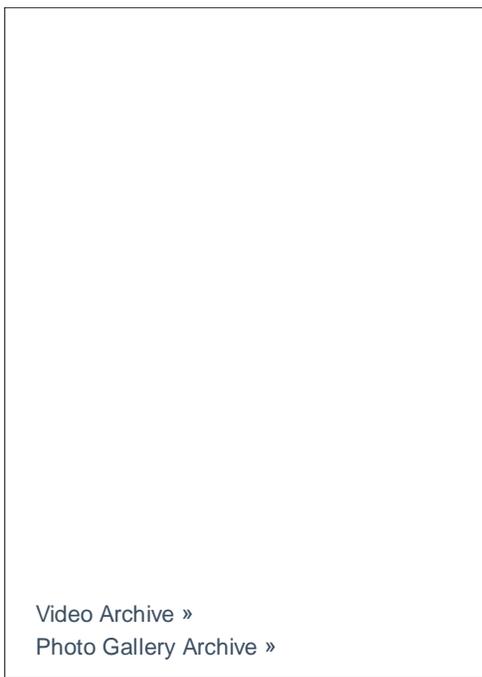


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November 15, 2009 8:19 a.m.

jjeffreys writes:

Wow no photo I really wanted to see some white guys getting the shots

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November 15, 2009 5:29 p.m.

daner420420#721367 writes:

Have any of you taken the Mist or Shot?? How about your kids?? I hear they are giving out a live virus, I'm wondering if the entire family got the virus as a result of giving the kid the mist??? would it that it make it dangerous for the rest of the family that didn't the shot or mist?? just wondering.....

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November 16, 2009 1:18 p.m.

cmpvr#687237 writes:

Fun stuff, having to wait in line like this. In Europe the vaccine is given by appt. They know everyone who needs it since they have their medical records because of that scary socialized medicine over there.

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The flumist version is only contagious if you are going to be around someone with a very weak immune system (such as cancer patients, etc.). This information is easy to find online if you do a little searching. Our 2 year old had flumist several weeks ago and he did not give the virus to us. We were not eligible for the vaccine since we are not in one of the high risk categories.

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