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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**San Joaquin County Public Health Services:
 Free Community Flu-Vaccine Clinic Set for October 19,
 Doubles as Emergency Preparedness Exercise**

STOCKTON, CA (October, 17, 2012) – San Joaquin County Public Health Services (SJCPHS) will provide seasonal influenza vaccinations free of charge on Friday, October 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (or until supplies run out), at two unique sites in Lodi and Manteca. These special flu vaccine clinics are open to everyone, 9 years of age and older. They are “walk-in” clinics and no appointment is required. Those who do not have health insurance and those at highest risk of complications from the flu, including persons with long term medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic illness, are especially encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Vaccination also is important for people who live with or care for people at high risk for influenza-related complications, and for anyone caring for newborns.

In addition to providing a valuable health service, these clinics will serve as a realtime exercise of established emergency response plans for any future occurrence that would require mass public vaccination. In the event of a large-scale public health emergency, SJCPHS may have to distribute medication or vaccine to one or more communities within San Joaquin County to protect the general public from biological threats or epidemics. One method of doing this is to hold a mass dispensing clinic at a strategic location in the community, which is also known as a Point of Dispensing (POD) site.

Public Health Services Emergency Preparedness Program, in collaboration with community partners and volunteers, will conduct two flu vaccination clinics on the same day and at the same time, at the following locations in Lodi and Manteca:

<p>Free Seasonal Flu Vaccine Clinic for everyone 9 years of age and older One day only, October 19 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or until supplies run out In Lodi and Manteca:</p>	
<p><u>Point of Dispensing (POD) Lodi</u> Grape Festival Grounds/ Lodi Flea Market 413 E. Lockeford Street, Lodi, CA 95241</p>	<p><u>Point of Dispensing (POD) Manteca</u> Calvary Community Church 815 West Lathrop Road Manteca, CA 95336</p>

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San Joaquin County Public Health Services will also continue to provide flu vaccine during its regular immunization clinic hours, for people of all ages who do not have a regular source of medical care that provides influenza vaccine. The fee is \$15; however, no one will be denied services due to inability to pay. Please call (209) 468-3830 or visit www.sjcphs.org for clinic days and hours. Seasonal influenza vaccine is also available through various sources in the community, including doctor's offices, neighborhood pharmacies, grocery stores, and at some work sites. To find immunization clinic sites that are convenient for you, log onto www.flu.gov .

In addition to getting an annual flu shot, the public is reminded to follow basic infection control measures. These include covering your coughs and sneezes, frequent hand washing, avoiding close contact with sick people and staying home if you are sick.

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