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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly to Offer Swine Flu Vaccine to Students

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly Health Center announced its H1N1 flu immunization plan today.

The Health Center has received 3,500 doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine for injection. Additional doses will be available in coming weeks as needed. Immunizations will be given to currently enrolled students only. The vaccine cannot be given to students who are currently sick or who have egg allergies.

Beginning November 3, free immunizations will be available to Cal Poly students Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, afternoons, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the campus Health Center. Students with chronic health problems such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease or a compromised immune system are encouraged to receive the vaccine on Nov. 3. Appointments are not available. We recommend that people get to the Health Center at 1 to line up for their shot. Only the H1N1 shot will be given during this drive.

Health Center will be open for regular services from 8 to 11 a.m. on immunization drive days, but will close at 11 a.m. to administer immunizations in the afternoon. Counseling Services will be open as usual.

The Health Center has brought in additional staff to help with the immunization drive.

Health Center Director Martin Bragg doesn't like to shorten health center hours. "Unfortunately we have limited resources," he said. "We believe that the public health value of this immunization drive is of highest importance, given that this influenza seems to especially target traditional college-aged students."

David Harris, head of Medical Services at Cal Poly, strongly urges students to get vaccinated for both H1N1 and the seasonal flu. "The H1N1 vaccine should be very effective," Harris said, "because we know with unusual certainty what virus is causing the illness."

While people who already have had the H1N1 flu should not need to be immunized, few cases have actually received laboratory verification to be sure that they actually were H1N1. The Health Center recommends that anyone sick with influenza-like illness – a confirmed fever over 100 and a cough – but without laboratory confirmation of the H1N1 virus consider getting the vaccine to guarantee immunity.