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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

2009 H1N1 Flu Virus Health Division Update #2

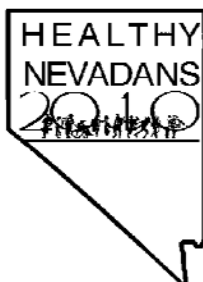
Carson City – The Health Division has received many inquiries regarding blood donations during the 2009 H1N1 Flu situation. All precautions remain in place to ensure that blood donations occur in an environment that is safe for blood donors.

“Protection of blood supply chain resources is part of our statewide emergency response to public health situations such as the H1N1 flu infections,” said Dr. Mary Guinan, State Health Officer. “Timely availability of blood products for hospitals is always critical in order to meet the needs of patients. It is important for the public to know that they can feel safe about donating blood at this time, whether it is for themselves or others.”

United Blood Services (UBS), a major provider of blood to the region, and its parent, Blood Services, have engaged their emergency response plan. According to Tom Choi, UBS Executive Director, “We are taking a proactive stance to ensure the safety of our blood drives, which includes monitoring and responding to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local health authorities.” He continued, “Our emergency response has specific provisions to assure that the environment for blood donation and collection is safe for both blood donors and our employees. Ensuring a safe and available blood supply is the focus of our efforts.”

For additional information, please call Nevada Help: 866.767.5038 or visit the Health Division’s website: <http://health.nv.gov> and the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

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