FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kaiser Permanente Launches Flu Immunization Program at Orange County Elementary Schools

Orange County, California, Fall, 2015 – Kaiser Permanente Orange County, in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education, the Orange County Health Care Agency, five school districts in Orange County, California State University Fullerton and Long Beach, Golden West College, Concorde Career College and Azusa Pacific University, will offer on-site school flu vaccination clinics for approximately 64,000 students at 93 elementary schools in Orange County in October, November and December. Nursing students affiliated with Kaiser Permanente will administer the vaccines at no-cost while gaining community health experience as part of their community health rotations.

Since school-aged children are the most important vector for community transmission of influenza, the objective of the program is to reduce influenza-like illness causing school absenteeism by offering school located vaccination clinics. The goal is to vaccinate as many students as possible thus creating herd immunity in a vulnerable population and closing health disparities in our communities by addressing this integral unmet need.

About Influenza Among School-Age Children

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, influenza is the leading cause of illness in America.
- School-age children have the highest annual flu rates—as high as 42% according to the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Diseases.

About School-Located Influenza Vaccination

- School-located vaccination clinics foster community immunity by helping to prevent influenza among children where outbreaks often start.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Disease recognizes a need for more school-located influenza immunization.

About the Orange County Department of Education

The mission of the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is to ensure that all students are equipped with the competencies they need to thrive in the 21st century. Our vision is that Orange County students will lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. OCDE is a public education organization offering support to 27 school districts and more than 600 schools and 20,000 educators serving over 500,000 students in Orange County. OCDE’s personnel offer support, professional development, and student programs through its divisions and departments: Administrative Services, Alternative Education, Business Services, Career and Technical Education, Information Technology, Instructional Services, Legal Services, School and Community Services, and Special Education. For more information, visit www.ocde.us.
About the Orange County Health Care Agency
The Health Care Agency (HCA) is a regional provider, charged with protecting and promoting individual, family and community health through coordination of public and private sector resources. HCA's service environment is complex, with 180 different funding sources and over 200 State and Federal mandates. The mandates under which HCA operates require the County to provide for, or to regulate, certain health services. Many also carry specific requirements for staffing, operations, claiming and record-keeping. Many of HCA's services are preventive in nature and therefore are not readily apparent to the public. Some examples of services include food protection, hazardous waste regulation, water quality monitoring and pollution prevention, mental health services, alcohol and drug abuse services, preventive health services for the aging, healthcare for incarcerated individuals, communicable disease control, child health and disability program, immunizations, public health field nursing and public health clinics.

About Kaiser Permanente
Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America’s leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, our mission is to provide high quality, affordable health care services to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve more than 4 million members in Southern California. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal physicians, specialists and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education and the support of community health. Kaiser Permanente Orange County currently serves more than 500,000 members through a network of approximately 7,000 employees and 1,000 physicians. For more information, go to: www.kp.org/orangecounty.

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