

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Nonprofit Plays Key Role in Response to Swine Flu**

*211 San Diego provides critical support to  
County of San Diego's Public Health Department*

San Diego, CA – In response to the recent outbreak of Swine Flu in San Diego County, 211 San Diego has activated its call center for the public to call for non-emergency information related to swine influenza in the region. A public health emergency was declared on Sunday, April 26, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The San Diego County Office of Emergency Services has activated 211, and has asked the public to dial 2-1-1 to speak with live specialists for information on the swine flu situation.

211 San Diego is the region's primary place for 24/7, free community, health and disaster information. 211 works in partnership with the County of San Diego's Office of Emergency Services (OES) to provide the public with up-to-the-minute information when called upon by OES to distribute urgent information to the public through its online disaster database, ReliefPoint, supported by Qualcomm Incorporated, Pangea Foundation, and the County of San Diego at the recommendation of Supervisor Greg Cox. Because this database is web-based, 211 San Diego will be sharing the system with 211s nationwide to better collect and report national information around this situation.

"211 was here to answer the call during Firestorm 2007," says the Chief Executive Officer, John Ohanian. "We are committed to public health and safety in our region, and to providing the public with a single place they can go to for accurate information 24/7 for their personal and public disasters."

Every hour of every day, someone in San Diego County searches for services, from food and housing assistance to care for an ailing parent or child. With more than 2,000 community agencies providing more than 5,000 health and human service programs in San Diego, finding one's way can seem insurmountable. By dialing 2-1-1, clients work with a live call specialist to receive services and information tailored to their needs.

During a disaster or public crisis, 211 partners with the County of San Diego's Office of Emergency Services to be the central place for non-emergency disaster information during a disaster. During Firestorm 2007, 211 San Diego helped more than 120,000 residents connect to valuable resources like road closures, shelters, evacuations, and recovery assistance.

211 expects to help more than 220,000 clients this year connect to critical services and information like food, employment and housing assistance.

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**About 211 San Diego:**



With primary funding from First 5 San Diego, 211 San Diego helps people by connecting them efficiently to the service delivery system, and providing vital trend information for community planning. For more information about 211, go to [211sandiego.org](http://211sandiego.org).

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**211 San Diego**

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