



St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services

A full service retirement community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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How Senior Communities are Protecting Seniors from the Swine Flu

San Diego, CA April 28, 2009 – On Friday, April 24th when word began spreading about the unique swine-flu strain that was being diagnosed in California, St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services acted quickly to inform its staff, Residents and Participants of actions to take to prevent an outbreak.

The organization operates independent and assisted living communities, a skilled nursing community, an Intergenerational Day Care Program and a Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Including staff, there are more than 725 people that St. Paul's is either serving or employing and everyone except staff is a senior citizen or child. Both groups are typically affected more severely by such illnesses.

After doing initial research on the unique swine-flu strain, St. Paul's mobilized its Corporate Nurse, Director of Staff Development and Nursing Directors to inform staff of warning signs and symptoms to observe in the Children, Residents and Participants. Signs were also posted throughout the senior communities and in program areas instructing people of general precautions to avoid contact with the illness and to avoid others if symptoms began to develop. Staff were also told to stay home if they had any cold or flu symptoms and asked to wear masks if they had a cough.

"It's much easier and in everyone's best interests to act quickly and put precautions in place when something like this is happening," said St. Paul's CEO Cheryl Wilson, who is also a Registered Nurse. "Seniors and children have a greater risk of being affected very harshly by pandemics, so organizations dealing with those populations have to be prepared to act quickly when something like the swine-flu breaks out."

For more information on what seniors living in residential communities can do to reduce the spread of illness, please contact St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services at (619) 239-6900.

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St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services is a full service retirement provider, offering Independent, Assisted Living, and Skilled Nursing communities, as well as child and senior day care programs and a Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Since opening its doors in 1960, St. Paul's remains an innovator in the San Diego community with a reputation for exceptional care.