

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

- [Home](#)

Kaiser health workers begin strike

By COURTNEY PERKES

09/21/2011 8:28 AM

About 250 employees of Kaiser Permanente in Orange County started a two-day strike Wednesday to protest proposed benefits cuts and lack of staffing.



[Enlarge Photo](#)

The National Union of Healthcare Workers represents social workers, therapists, health educators, dietitians, speech pathologists and audiologists. They are about 4 percent of the Orange County workforce, which is made up of roughly 5,600 workers and 850 doctors.

Nurses in Los Angeles will go on a three-day strike, but the union doesn't represent nurses in Orange County. Workers will picket in Los Angeles, Fontana and San Diego.

[In May, the union held a one-day strike in Los Angeles](#), which was attended by some Orange County employees. At the time, Kaiser said routine appointments were rescheduled.

"In terms of mental health services, that will be disrupted for several days," said Leighton Woodhouse, a union spokesman. "This is our way of addressing those patient care issues."

Previously, the HMO has declined to comment on specific issues raised by the union.

Contact the writer: 714-796-3686 or cperkes@ocregister.com

Related:

- [Kaiser health employees go on one-day strike](#)

[About Us](#)

[Mobile Apps](#)

[Follow @OCRmobile](#)

[Text Alerts](#) |

[E-mail customer service](#) |

[Regular Site](#) |

[Contact Us](#) |

[Advertise](#)

© 2011 Orange County Register Communications