



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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**SCHOOL-BASED H1N1 VACCINATION CLINICS
COMING IN NOVEMBER
PARENTAL CONSENT FORMS DUE BY OCTOBER 30**

HONOLULU –The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) announced today that participating schools have begun sending home parental consent forms for upcoming H1N1 vaccination clinics. The free, voluntary program is being offered to students in Kindergarten through 8th grades statewide. Consent forms are due back to schools by October 30.

“We’re hoping that parents will take advantage of this convenient opportunity to get their keiki vaccinated,” said Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D. “Vaccination is the best protection you can offer your children to prevent complications from flu. We urge both keiki and their families to get both the seasonal and H1N1 vaccines in order to have maximum protection against both known flu strains circulating this year. “

In addition to the scheduled school clinics, 2009 H1N1 vaccinations have begun on a relatively small scale for other priority populations. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that populations most at-risk for severe illness or complications from the flu receive priority in getting the vaccine. These groups include:

- pregnant women,
- persons who live with or provide care for infants younger than age 6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers),
- health-care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact,

School-based H1N1 Vaccination Parental Consent Forms Due by Oct. 30

- persons aged 6 months through 24 years, and
- persons aged 25 through 64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

“In these early weeks while we have limited supplies of H1N1 vaccine, we are adhering to the CDC recommended priority groups,” stated State Epidemiologist Sarah Y. Park, M.D. “If you’re not sure whether you qualify, please check with your healthcare provider to see if you fall within a priority group and where you should go to get vaccinated. If you’re not in a priority group, please be assured that eventually everyone who wants the vaccine will be able to receive it.”

Initial vaccine shipments to Hawai‘i have been limited by factors including manufacturers’ output, variations in the state’s allocation, and delivery logistics. As these variables are resolved, DOH fully anticipates receiving ample vaccine supplies to meet the needs of Hawai‘i’s population and will continue to provide timely updates.

To view a list of schools participating in offering H1N1 vaccination clinics, go to flu.hawaii.gov, or call 2-1-1.

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