



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**DOH ANNOUNCES H1N1 NASAL SPRAY VACCINE
AVAILABLE TO WIDER POPULATION**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) announced today that thanks to vaccine supplies gradually catching up with demand, Hawai'i vaccination providers can now use the 2009 H1N1 nasal spray vaccine (LAIV -- live attenuated influenza vaccine) to vaccinate any healthy, nonpregnant persons ages 2 through 49 years old. Vaccination providers were notified of the expanded eligibility for H1N1 nasal spray vaccine earlier this week.

However, for the shots (MIV -- injectable monovalent inactivated vaccine), vaccination providers should continue to adhere to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended priority groups for vaccination:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for infants younger than age 6 months
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- Children and young adults ages 6 months through 24 years
- Anyone ages 25 through 64 years old with underlying medical conditions that put them at a higher risk for influenza-related complications.

The CDC and DOH recommend the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine for all healthy people 2-49 years old who are not pregnant. Vaccination is voluntary and the best protection available against the 2009 H1N1 flu.

For more information on H1N1 influenza or the vaccine, call your doctor, visit flu.hawaii.gov, or call Aloha United Way at 2-1-1. The DOH also is on Twitter. Follow us at www.twitter.com/HIgov_Health.

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