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Guam to Receive Thousands in Federal Funding for H1N1, Seasonal Flu Preparedness Efforts

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced the availability of \$350 million in grants to help states and territories prepare for the 2009 novel H1N1 flu virus and the fall flu season. The announcement comes one day after hosting a summit on the 2009 novel H1N1 flu with state, tribal, territorial, and local government representatives from across the country. Guam will receive a total of \$193,679, of which \$146,297 will go to Public Health Emergency Response Grants and \$47,382 to Hospital Preparedness Grants.

“This funding will strengthen ongoing efforts to protect our community through the seasonal flu and H1N1 Influenza A virus,” said Governor Felix P. Camacho. “We look forward to using this money for vaccination distribution plans, community outreach awareness and surveillance.”

To date, Guam has four confirmed cases of the Influenza A H1N1 Virus. Island residents and travelers are advised to take the following pre-cautionary measures: cover your cough and sneeze and dispose of tissue, wash your hands regularly, use hand sanitizers if hand soap is not available, and if you are sick, stay home.

For more information please contact Charlene Calip at 788-0589 or charlene.calip@guam.gov. For more information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control Website at www.cdc.gov, the Department of Public Health and Social Services website at www.dphss.guam.gov or Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense website at www.guamhs.org. You may also call the Information Line at 735-H1N1 (4161).