

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNMENT OF GUAM OFFICIALS BRIEFED ON H1N1 SUMMIT

4 Confirmed Cases, 0 Deaths in Guam

Government of Guam Officials from both the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) and the Governor's Office attended a day-long H1N1 flu preparedness summit at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland on July 9, 2009. Representatives from all 50 states and territories were invited to attend the summit which was coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The goal of the summit was to launch a national influenza campaign by bringing federal, state and local officials, emergency managers, educators and others together with the nation's public health experts to build on tailor states' existing pandemic plans, share lessons learned and best practices during the spring and summer H1N1 wave, and discuss preparedness priorities.

The 4 major preparedness priorities include: 1. Surveillance 2. Community Mitigation (e.g., guidelines for social distancing, school closures) 3. Vaccination for Seasonal Flu and 4. Communication (e.g., preparedness, public service announcements, public awareness, consistency of information).

Taking the recommendation from the summit, DPHSS and its core partners are in the planning stages of organizing a flu summit in preparation for this year's fall flu season. Invitees will include key stakeholders from the local government, public and private partners (medical, education institutions, military, businesses, faith-based and non-profit organizations). Location and date of summit to be determined at a later time.

DPHSS Officials reminds the public that we cannot become complacent about the H1N1 influenza virus. While there have been 4 confirmed cases on Guam, DPHSS will continue to prepare for the possibility of a more severe outbreak of H1N1 in the fall by updating pandemic preparedness plans and lessons learned from the spring and summer H1N1 wave.

DPHSS reminds the public to take shared responsibilities such as covering your cough, washing your hands with soap and water or an antibacterial solution and to stay home and limit contact with others for at least seven (7) days if you are feeling sick.

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).