

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***DPHSS and DOE work Together to Combat the Spread of H1N1 in Guam Schools***  
*Government Officials to Address Participants at Pacific Education Conference*

In preparation for the 2009 school year, island health officials from the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), Guam Homeland Security and Department of Education will address attendees at the 2009 Pacific Education Conference at the University of Guam on Friday, July 17, 2009. According to MaryLou Loualhati, PIO, “This is a joint effort of our leaders in health and education to address the largest gathering of educators and support staff on Guam and the region to raise awareness and promote school based plan preparedness to mitigate the spread of the Influenza A H1N1 virus”. Following the address, public health will provide training to all participants about the Influenza A H1N1 virus.

Over the next few weeks, public health and DOE will be working to ensure school based plans and protocols are in place for maintaining a healthy learning environment for students.

Island residents are reminded that the spread of the Influenza A H1N1 virus is not cause for panic, but to take all pre-cautionary measures to protect yourself from the flu seriously. The spread of the H1N1 influenza virus is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Infected people may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 7 or more days after becoming sick. That means that you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.

Public health officials remain vigilant and continue surveillance and monitoring activities and continue to collaborate with the medical community to identify any reports of influenza-like illnesses that may be related to the H1N1 virus.

For more information, please visit the following website at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov); the Department of Public Health and Social Services website at [www.dphss.guam.gov](http://www.dphss.guam.gov); or Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense website at [www.guamhs.org](http://www.guamhs.org). You may also call the Information Line at 735-H1N1 (4161).