

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services placed its first order today with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the 2009 Novel H1N1 Influenza vaccine - all of it the nasal-spray formulation. Guam was allocated 2400 doses of vaccine to be able to draw from with its first order. The Guam Vaccine and Antiviral Prioritization Planning Committee, in accordance with CDC guidelines has recommended to DPHSS to give first priority to the following recommended target groups for H1N1 FluMist (LAIV) vaccination:

- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact
- Healthy individuals 2 years to 49 years of age

According to federal health officials, the first 600,000 doses of pandemic H1N1 vaccine are on its way to 25 states and major cities and should arrive by Tuesday, Oct 6. States and large cities began placing orders for vaccine on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

According to the CDC, the first H1N1 vaccine doses received by all states will be the nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) or FluMist. This form of vaccine is recommended only for healthy individuals 2 to 49 years of age. It is not recommended for pregnant women or individuals with underlying medical conditions such as asthma. In addition to LAIV, injectable vaccine doses will be available in weekly shipments to states beginning in mid-October.

DPHSS will follow the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidance and give first priority to high-risk groups that may be more vulnerable to serious complications from the H1N1 flu. Beyond the high-risk groups who will be targeted initially to receive the H1N1 vaccine, DPHSS encourages everyone to get vaccinated as it becomes more widely available. Meanwhile, everyone can continue to help stop the spread of influenza by getting their seasonal flu vaccination and through simple yet effective methods like covering your cough, washing your hands frequently, and staying home if you are sick.

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).