

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World Health Organization increase its pandemic alert level to Phases 6

DPHSS MAINTAINS VIGILANCE

The World Health Organization (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic alert to Phase 6 in response to the on going global spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. A Phase 6 designation is the highest on the WHO's pandemic alert system and indicates that a global pandemic is underway.

Guam continues to have zero probable, zero confirmed cases. This pandemic level to phase 6 of the WHO is primarily due to the sustained human to human transmission of Novel H1N1 to 74 countries worldwide affecting approximately 30,000 people.

Guam continues to have no suspect, confirmed or probable cases of swine-origin H1N1 flu. The DPHSS surveillance team will continue to be vigilant and ready for response should the need arise. Should a case be confirmed, Guam has the clinical protocols in place to treat symptoms. Public Health strongly recommends island residence 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.

DPHSS and its partners will continue local efforts in enhanced surveillance and prevention activities and will continue to monitor the situation globally and locally.

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).