

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

PHICC Written Statement No.09-041

A STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

J Peter Roberto, director of Public Health and Social Services, issued the following statement:

"Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) received confirmation late yesterday afternoon of an H1N1-related death. During the course of regular surveillance activities, DPHSS sent 13 specimens to an off-island lab for confirmatory testing. Of the 13 samples, six returned positive for H1N1, which included one positive case belonging to a patient who has since passed away.

The deceased was between the ages of 5 and 24 years old and had severe preexisting health conditions. The department is in the process of contacting the next of kin before releasing any further details. Pending this notification I am asking for the public's patience and understanding at this time. We offer our condolences to the family and friends of the deceased individual."