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PRESS RELEASE 2018-048

National Immunization Coverage Awards

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), Immunization Program under the auspices of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control of the Division of Public Health. recently received three immunization coverage awards from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Immunization Services Division. The awards were across three age groups:

- Most Improved Coverage Among Children Award (19-35 months old for each of nine vaccinations) from 2013 to 2016
- Healthy People 2020 Immunization Coverage Award Adolescents Aged 13-17 Years (for four vaccinations), 2016
- Most Improved Pneumococcal Vaccination Coverage Among Adults Award (Aged 65 years and older), 2013 to 2016

Guam is one of 64 state, local, and U.S.-affiliated Immunization Program grantees eligible for vaccination coverage awards. The Director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Dr. Nancy Messonnier, presented the national awards during the 48th National Immunization Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

These awards could not be possible without the commitment, support, and contributions of the Northern/Southern Region Community Health Centers, DPHSS' Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services, Guam's private and military healthcare providers, Department of Education, private schools, island-wide child care centers, health advocates, non-profit and communitybased organizations, volunteers, parents, guardians and grandparents. We recognize and appreciate the dedication of so many individuals that helped achieve these goals.

The DPHSS Immunization Program looks forward to continued partnerships to increase awareness, promote immunization across the life span, and protect the health of our residents.

For more information, call the DPHSS Immunization Program at 735-7143.

Leo b. Soul LEO G. CASIL **Acting Director**