

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**National Influenza Vaccination Week, January 10-16, 2010**  
*Today's message highlights the importance of flu vaccination for seniors*

The Department of Public Health and Social Services joins the nation in celebrating National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW). NIVW is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as fostering greater use of flu vaccine after the holiday season. This year's NIVW is January 10-16, 2010.

In line with NIVW, DPHSS continues to encourage island residents to get vaccinated. DPHSS will be holding H1N1 Mass Vaccination Point of Dispensing (POD) for island residents on Saturday, January 16 at the Yigo Gym between 9 am to 12 noon. The last person to be vaccinated will be accepted at 11:30 am.

Today's message highlights the **importance of flu vaccination for seniors**.

- People 65 years and older are encouraged to seek vaccination for 2009 H1N1 flu; vaccine supplies have increased. With over 130 million doses of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine available, many places have opened up vaccination to anyone who wants it.
- People 65 years and older are less likely to get infected with 2009 H1N1 virus compared to children and younger adults; however, those that do become infected are at greater risk of having serious complications from their illness. There have been severe infections and deaths in every age group, including older people.
- People 65 years and older are recommended to get antiviral drugs if they become sick with the flu according to CDC's guidance. It's very important that antiviral drugs be used early to treat flu illness in people 65 years and older and other people who have a greater chance of getting serious flu complications if they get sick with influenza.
- People 65 years and over are always encouraged to get their annual seasonal flu shot as well as to make sure their pneumonia vaccination is up to date.

Anyone who has not yet been vaccinated against the H1N1 Influenza is encouraged to attend the DPHSS POD. More POD dates and locations will be announced at a later time. Please bring a photo ID with you and all minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. You are also encouraged to bring your immunization records if they are available, however it is not mandatory.

Information about the H1N1 Influenza is also available at the following websites at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov); Government of Guam's H1N1 website at <http://flu.guam.gov>; or Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense website at [www.guamhs.org](http://www.guamhs.org). You may also call the Immunization Program at 735-7143 or the Information Line at 735-H1N1 (4161), Monday - Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.