

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2009; 1:30 p.m.

PHICC Release No. 09-047

DPHSS To Hold “Vaccination Presentations” at School Districts
Informational Presentations to Be Held Next Week to Educate Parents
About the H1N1 Vaccine and DOE’s Vaccination PODs

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), in conjunction with the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) will be conducting a series of presentations next week to inform parents of school aged children about the H1N1 Vaccine. The goal of these educational presentations is to educate parents so that they may make an informed decision as to whether or not their children will be vaccinated against the H1N1 Influenza.

The presentations will be conducted by school district beginning on Tuesday, November 3 for the LAGU District (North) at Okkodo High School. The second presentation will take place at Tamuning Elementary School for the LUCHAN District (West) on Wednesday, November 4; the third at George Washington High School on Thursday, November 5 for the KATTAN District (East); and the final presentation will be conducted on Friday, November 6 at Southern High School for the HAYA District (South). All four presentations will begin at 6 pm.

Among the topics of discussion during the presentation will be the consent form packets that will be sent home with students prior to the start of onsite school vaccination programs. In addition to the consent form, information will be provided describing the vaccine, its potential side effects, and the method used to determine if children are to receive the FluMist nasal spray or the injectable vaccine. Students in the high risk category will be asked to visit their private healthcare provider to receive vaccinations.

“We prefer that high risk children receive the vaccine from their personal doctor or healthcare provider, an individual who is familiar with the child’s complete medical history,” said DPHSS Director J. Peter Roberto, “Children make up one of the largest identified target groups and we want to ensure parents are armed with all the information so they can make the best decision for their children regarding vaccination for H1N1.”

Originally, the DPHSS had planned to conduct its own Points of Distribution (PODs) to vaccinate the public in November, but opted instead to lend its support and manpower to the GDOE in order to protect Guam’s children from the H1N1 flu as quickly as possible. Efforts are also on-going to provide the H1N1 vaccine to the other target groups identified by the Vaccine and Antiviral Prioritization Planning Committee. Once all target groups have been vaccinated, the DPHSS will begin conducting PODs for the general public.

“The most important thing people should know is that there will be an opportunity for everyone who is interested to receive the vaccine,” Roberto said, “We are merely concentrating first on those identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as being at the highest risk, like our children.”

For more information about the DPHSS/GDOE Vaccination Presentations please contact Cindy Hanson, DPHSS Public Information Officer, at 735-7259 or by email at cindy.hanson@dphss.guam.gov or Gerry Cruz, GDOE Public Information Officer at 300-1531 or by email at gicruz@gdoe.guam.gov

For more information about the H1N1 Influenza, please visit the following websites at [ww.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov); the Department of Public Health and Social Services 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).