



# TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

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## *For Immediate Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **More supplies of H1N1 vaccine issued for active duty personnel**

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER—On-site H1N1 vaccinations were recently completed at Camp Smith, Kunia, and Pearl Harbor, as more vaccine are being shipped to Hawaii by the Department of Defense's Military Vaccine Agency (MILVAX). As supplies are received, active duty military without underlying medical conditions will be vaccinated, following the same scheduling procedures used for the seasonal flu vaccination.

In December, military clinical and public health staff also vaccinated hundreds of other personnel and family members at on-site clinics coordinated through the Hawaii Department of Health's Stop Flu at School program and the Oahu's Joint Public Health Vaccination Working Group.

"We are expecting a lot more vaccine to come here in January," said Lance Golder, MILVAX representative at Tripler Army Medical Center. Golder said that shipment schedules are still fluid, as overseas installations and training commands are still DOD's priorities for the vaccine. Hawaii is not considered to be an overseas area, according to DoD's H1N1 vaccination plans.

"So far, the military community in Hawaii reflects what is happening in the local civilian community," said Col. (Dr.) Michael Sigmon, Tripler's Preventive Medicine chief. Sigmon said that Hawaii has not been affected like some areas on the mainland that experienced a second surge of the H1N1 pandemic in the fall.

"With colder weather still to come, and more military personnel and families traveling because of the year-end holidays, we are closely monitoring the situation," Sigmon said. He also cautioned parents that children 4 to 9 years old must get their second, booster shot 30 days after their first vaccination, to ensure protection against the contagion.

Sigmon urged those who can do so, to ask for the nasal spray form. They are now more plentiful than the injectable form, which is the only vaccine that can be used for young children and for those with underlying medical conditions.

DoD is following CDC guidelines and urging especially those in the following groups to get vaccinated:

- Pregnant women
- Family members of children under six months of age
- Healthcare and childcare workers, and emergency first responders
- Children six months through 24 years old
- Adults, 24 to 64 years old, with high risk medical conditions. They require the injectable vaccine.
- Adults, 18 to 49 years old, not high risk medical conditions can now receive the flu-mist

For updated information, please continue to call the Flu Hotline, check with your healthcare provider, or visit the Tripler Army Medical Center webpage, "Fight the Flu".

H1N1 vaccinations are also being given at military medical clinics for eligible beneficiaries and priority employees.