



TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

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For Immediate Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Military services on Oahu combat seasonal flu

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER – While media attention continues to focus on the H1N1 (swine) flu outbreak, doctors and nurses in Hawaii have already started vaccinating people with seasonal influenza vaccine, as part of the annual vaccination campaign against the seasonal flu virus.

Like the rest of Hawaii, military medical treatment facilities on Oahu have received the bulk of their seasonal flu vaccine shipments and are now scheduling vaccinations at various clinic and public sites on Oahu.

“The military services are starting early this year,” said Col. (Dr.) Michael Sigmon, chief of preventive medicine at Tripler Army Medical Center and chair of the Joint Public Health Emergency Working Group, which is coordinating the vaccination efforts of all the military services on Oahu. “Getting vaccinated early for seasonal flu is very important. People won’t have to call in sick or miss school. Vaccinations will also prevent you from catching the flu, or having to stay home to take care of someone else who is sick.”

Sigmon said that the Department of Defense, like other federal and state agencies, is carefully monitoring the H1N1 outbreak situation and is working on plans in case the virus becomes more dangerous than it has been so far.

While recent studies show that seasonal flu vaccinations don’t protect people from getting sick from the H1N1 virus, they do protect against other types of flu that may return, as the traditional flu season begins in the next few weeks.

Through the “Stop Flu at School” campaign, Hawaii’s health department is working with public and private schools and civilian and military healthcare providers to administer seasonal flu vaccinations from October through November. Specific dates have been set by participating schools, for kindergarten through eighth grade students. These schools distributed parental consent forms at the start of the school year. Completed forms must



Sgt. Suliasi Lautana, a medic with Tripler Army Medical Center’s anesthesiology department, receives the seasonal flu vaccine through a nasal spray from Spec. Bethaney Van Tellingan, a Tripler emergency department medic. Walk-in flu vaccination clinics are being scheduled at Oahu military medical clinics this month. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa.

be returned to the school by Sept. 11 so your child can participate in this important program.

In addition to vaccinations at military medical clinics, Oahu military exchange malls will have walk-up vaccination tables set up during October and November. Vaccinations will also be offered at retiree seminars at Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter on Oct. 17 and at the Fleet Reserve Association event at 891 Valkenburgh Drive, Pearl Harbor on Nov. 7. If possible, bring your immunization record to this event.

For more information, call the Oahu Joint Services Flu Hotline at 433-1FLU (433-1358), see your primary care provider, or visit: <http://www.tamc.amedd.army.mil/>.

Seasonal Flu Vaccinations Schedule

Military shopping centers	
Hickam BX	Sat., Oct. 24: 9 am – 2 pm
Pearl Harbor NEX	Sat., Nov. 7 & 13: 9 am – 2 pm
Kaneohe Bay MCX	Sun., Nov. 15: 9 am – 2 pm
Schofield Barracks PX	Sat., Nov. 21: 9 am – 2 pm

Military Clinic Facilities	
Kaneohe Bay	Weekdays except Thu.: 7:30 - 11:30 am; 1 - 3:30 pm
	Thu.: 7:30 - 11:30 am; 1 - 2 pm
Makalapa Clinic	Weekdays: 7:30 am – 5 pm
	1 st Sat. of month: 8 am – 4 pm
Tripler Army Medical Center Immunization Clinic	Tue.: 1 - 3 pm
	Wed. & Fri.: 9 - 11:30 am
Schofield Barracks Health Clinic	Mon. – Thu.: 7:30 - 11:30 am
	Fri. : 9 - 11:30 am
	Mon., Wed., Fri: 1 - 3 pm
	Tue. & Thu.: 1 - 2 pm
Fort Shafter, 1st Flr, Faveau Hall	Weekdays, Except Thu. 1 - 4 pm
Hickam Clinic	Weekdays, 8 – 11:30 am; 1- 4 pm except Wed.: 8 – 11:30 am

Retiree Seminars	
Fort Shafter, Hale Ikena (by golf course)	Sat., Oct. 17, 7 - 8 am; 10 – 10:30 am
Pearl Harbor, 891 Valkenburgh St. (FRA)	Sat., Nov. 7, 7 am- noon