



TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

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December 8, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Limited supply of H1N1 vaccine issued for active duty personnel

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER—The Department of Defense's Military Vaccine Agency (MILVAX) recently provided Hawaii military medical commands with about 5,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine for active duty personnel in Hawaii. Vaccination at various command locations for active duty personnel are being scheduled as supplies are received.

The MILVAX-provided supplies are in addition to the 17,500 doses already provided to Hawaii military clinics for vaccinating military family members, healthcare workers and first responders. The 17,500 doses are part of the 303,000 doses purchased by the federal government for Hawaii's civilian population. This stock is managed by the state health department as part of a nationwide federal program and distributed through a DOD-State partnership.

MILVAX, as part of DoD's force readiness protection mission, has ordered 2.7 million doses for all U.S. military forces worldwide. Doses allocated for Hawaii's forces have been delayed, due to manufacturing processes and prioritization of early shipments to military forces overseas, to ensure overall DoD mission readiness.

"We now have more vaccine than just a few weeks ago. But supplies are still limited. Those most at risk of getting flu complications should be first in line for vaccinations," said Maj. (Dr.) Paul Ciminera, deputy chief of preventive medicine at Tripler Army Medical Center.

Ciminera said all military clinics are following the basic CDC guidelines for the H1N1 vaccination priorities. Unlike seasonal influenza, most active duty personnel are young and are more susceptible to the flu virus than those 65 years and older, according to recent studies about the H1N1 flu pandemic.

As vaccine supplies have increased, the kinds of people who should get the H1N1 vaccinations now are:

- Pregnant women
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants less than 6 months of age, including parents, siblings and daycare providers
- Health care and emergency medical service personnel
- First Responders
- Persons younger than 65 year old with certain medical conditions. Check with your doctor for the medical conditions. *
- Persons 6 mo. – 24 yrs. old (non-military members) **

* Non-essential civilian workers should seek vaccinations from their usual healthcare providers.

** Military members not in above categories will be vaccinated through their command programs with DOD vaccine as it becomes available.