

December 22, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRAFT 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.

TRICARE Beneficiary Locations

Kaneohe Bay Clinic:

M, T, W, & F: 0730-1130, 1300-1530
Th: 0730-1130, 1300-1400

Makalapa Clinic:

M-F: 0730-1700;
1st Sat of each month: 0800-1600

Navy Headquarters Clinic

(Bldg 1750): M-F: 0730-1600

Tripler Army Medical Center

Adult Immunization Clinic

C wing, 4th Flr, Tel. 433-2778, ext 5, 3
Tue: 1300-1500, Wed & Fri: 0900-1130

Family Medicine Clinic

D Wing, 1st Flr, Tel. 433-3304
Mon-Thu: 0800-1900; Fri: 0800-1600

Pediatric Clinic

F wing, 4th Flr, Tel. 433-6234
Mon – Fri: 0800-1600; Sat: by appt

Schofield Barracks Health Clinic

Troop Immunization Clinic

Bldg 679, Tel. 433-8800
M, Tu, F: 0630-1130; 1300-1500
W: 1300-1500 Th: 0630-1000; 1300-1500

Family Practice

Bldg 682, 1st Flr, Tel: 433-8145
M, W: 0730-1130 1300-1500
Tu & Th: 730-1130, 1300-1400
F: 0900-1130, 1300-1500

Pediatrics Clinic

Bldg 680, 1st Flr, Tel: 433-8176
M - F: 0800-1100, 1300-1500
Except Tu: 0900-01100, 1300-1500

**Fort Shafter Aid Station
(active duty only)**

Bldg 503A, Rm 102, Wisser Rd.,
Tel. 438-3455
M-W: 1300-1600; F: 1300-1600

Air Force Clinic:

M,T,Th,F: 0800-1130, 1300-1600