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Large scale H1N1 vaccinations begun for active duty personnel

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER—Large scale vaccinations of all active duty personnel on Oahu are now being coordinated among military commands, according to Col. (Dr.) Michael Sigmon, chief of preventive medicine for the Army’s Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center. Active duty military personnel will be vaccinated following scheduling procedures used for the seasonal flu vaccination.

“We are now able to vaccinate all active duty, using injectable inactivated H1N1 vaccine,” Sigmon said. The Department of Defense’s Military Vaccine Agency recently shipped large supplies of the vaccine to Hawaii, and military clinics of all services on Oahu are now able to vaccinate all their military and civilian personnel and military family members who need or want the vaccination.

“At the end of last year, we were focusing on priority groups, when supplies were limited,” Sigmon said. “That’s not the case now, so anyone who needs to or wants the vaccination can get immunized.” Sigmon noted that H1N1 vaccinations are mandatory for all active duty personnel.

For updated information, please continue to call the Flu Hotline (433-1FLU), check with your healthcare provider, or visit the Tripler Army Medical Center webpage, “Fight the Flu” (www.tamc.amedd.army.mil).

Tripler Army Medical Center pathologist Dr. Francis Gress is vaccinated by Spec. Nick Korenkiewicz at Tripler’s allergy and immunization clinic on Jan. 5. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa
Central Pacific District Veterinary Command's Spec. Kirsten Frock and Staff Sgt. Kimberly Marin review their H1N1 vaccination forms with Tripler public health nurse Susan Han at a special walk-in clinic set up near Tripler's Kyser Auditorium on Jan. 5. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa