



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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STOP FLU AT SCHOOL VACCINATION CLINICS START TODAY

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health's (DOH) Stop Flu at School program begins today and will continue in more than 300 public, private, and charter schools statewide through December 7, 2012. This is the sixth year for the voluntary program, which administers free flu vaccinations to Hawai'i students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

"The Stop Flu at School program is a wonderful example of public-private partnerships that benefit the health and well-being of our communities," said Health Director Loretta Fuddy. "Each year, the department partners with schools and health agencies to conduct clinics throughout the state, improving our overall preparedness to respond to an infectious disease emergency like pandemic influenza."

The Stop Flu at School program is made possible through funding received from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Hawai'i Association of Health Plans. More than 1,000 clinic staff, including volunteers from the Hawai'i Medical Reserve Corps, State Department of Defense, Kaiser Permanente, UH-Hilo School of Pharmacy, nursing programs at the University of Hawai'i Manoa, Kapiolani Community College, UH Hilo, Kaua'i County Community College, and UH Maui College will work together to vaccinate students in their schools.

Through this program, DOH expects to vaccinate more than 60,000 students. "By vaccinating school children, we not only protect our keiki, but their families and communities as well," said Dr. Sarah Park, State Epidemiologist. "An annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone six

(more)

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months and older. Children not vaccinated at their school should go to their doctor to receive the flu vaccine. Adults should be vaccinated at their doctor's office or a pharmacy.”

A list of flu vaccination clinics statewide is available at <http://hawaii.gov/health/flu-hawaii-gov/Documents/flushotschedule.pdf> or by calling 2-1-1.

The Stop Flu at School program is an innovative partnership between the State of Hawai'i departments of Health and Education, the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, and Hawai'i Catholic Schools. The program is endorsed by the Hawai'i Chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. The Stop Flu at School program aims to improve the health of Hawai'i keiki, families, and kupuna by preventing the spread of influenza (flu) through vaccination. The program is voluntary for schools and students.

For more information about the Stop Flu at School program, go to www.stopfluatschool.com or call the Aloha United Way information and referral line at 2-1-1.

The seasonal flu is one of many illnesses that are prevented through vaccination. Vaccinating each child born in the United States in a given year following the current childhood immunization schedule could prevent approximately 42,000 deaths and 20 million cases of disease.

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