



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

LINDA ROSEN, MD, MPH
DIRECTOR

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STOP FLU AT SCHOOL VACCINATION CLINICS BEGIN

HONOLULU – Stop Flu at School, the school-located influenza (flu) vaccination program for Hawaii children in kindergarten through eighth grade, kicked off its eighth year this week. The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) program, which in 2013 helped protect more than 70,000 school children and school faculty from flu, will continue statewide in more than 300 public, private, and charter schools through Dec. 19, 2014.

“Stop Flu at School helps our keiki stay healthy and in school. By preventing the spread of illness to classmates, families, and communities, it reduces lost work days, saves lives, and lowers healthcare costs,” said Health Director Dr. Linda Rosen. “From a public health perspective, it strengthens the state’s ability to respond to infectious disease emergencies like pandemic influenza.”

This year, the Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) members contributed \$815,000 to the program for the 2014-2015 school year. The total program cost is approximately \$1.7 million.

“Stop Flu at School helps protect our keiki and strengthens the community’s health,” said HAHP President Jennifer Diesman. “For the third year in a row, the Hawaii Association of Health Plans is proud to support this important program.”

“Our warmest mahalo to HAHP for ensuring that Hawaii’s keiki can be vaccinated at school,” said State Epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Park. “However, due to reductions in federal funding, the future of this important program remains unsure.”

A logistical feat, Stop Flu at School will require DOH to orchestrate more than 1,000 clinic staff, including volunteers from the Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps and the Department of Defense.

Stop Flu at School is a partnership between the Department of Health with the Department of Education,

Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and Hawaii Catholic Schools. It is endorsed by the Hawaii Chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Family Physicians and is made possible through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Hawaii Association of Health Plans.

For more information, visit <http://flu.hawaii.gov/sfas.html> or call Aloha United Way's information and referral service at 2-1-1.

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MEDIA CONTACT

Mark Berthold
Disease Outbreak Control Division
Phone: (808) 587-6596
mark.berthold@doh.hawaii.gov