



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**ANNUAL STOP FLU AT SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM
TO KICK OFF STATEWIDE EARLY NEXT YEAR**

Completed Vaccination Consent Forms due to Schools by December 16

HONOLULU – The state’s annual school-located vaccination program, Stop Flu at School, will be offering free flu vaccine to elementary and middle school children at public, private, and charter schools statewide. Vaccination clinics will be held in January and February 2017.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended the nasal spray flu vaccine should not be used during the 2016–2017 flu season because of data suggesting lower effectiveness of this vaccine. Therefore, only the flu shot will be offered through the Stop Flu at School program.

Information packets and vaccination consent forms are currently being distributed to parents through participating schools and are also available online. A fillable, electronic version of the consent form can be found at <https://vaxonlinereg.doh.hawaii.gov>. To sign up for the free vaccinations available to their children, parents or guardians should complete and sign the consent forms, and return them to schools by the deadline,

Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. Translated consent forms will be available online at <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/flu-hawaii/sfas-parents/>.

“Since Stop Flu at School clinics will not take place until January and February, we are encouraging parents of children, especially those with health conditions that place them at higher risk for serious complications from the flu (e.g., asthma or diabetes), to speak to their child’s physician about receiving the flu vaccine earlier,” said State Epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Park. “The school-located clinics are another option for children to be vaccinated.”

The Stop Flu at School program is a partnership between the Departments of Health and Education, and is made possible by the support of school administrators, health care providers, pediatric associations, health insurers, and federal partners. For more information about Stop Flu at School, visit <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/flu-hawaii/stop-flu-at-school/> or call Aloha United Way’s information and referral service at 2-1-1.

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