



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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FLU PRIORITY GROUPS EXPANDED

Late-Season flu vaccine for persons 50 & older and contacts of those at high-risk available

The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) is expanding the priority groups recommended to receive flu vaccine this season. With additional vaccine supplies recently made available nationwide by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the DOH is encouraging all adults aged 50-64 years and caregivers of high-risk groups to get their flu shot.

Flu vaccine priority groups now include:

- All adults aged 50-64 years
- Household contacts of persons in high-risk groups and out-of-home caregivers (i.e. infant and adult daycare staff or persons who care for adults aged 65 years and older, persons with chronic illness and children aged less than 2 years).

These groups are in addition to:

- adults aged 65 and older,
- all children aged 6–23 months,
- persons aged 2–64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions,
- all women who will be pregnant during influenza season.

“There’s still time for those most at risk to get their flu shot; flu activity in Hawaii is currently increasing and may not have reached its peak,” said Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D. “We encourage physicians statewide to continue efforts to vaccinate their patients in priority groups and order additional vaccine if needed.”

An additional supply of flu vaccine is being made available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for purchase by physicians nationwide. Information for physicians is available by calling 1-800-VACCINE.

Persons in a priority group in need of a flu shot should call their doctor. Those without a physician may call 2-1-1 for assistance.

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