



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**DOH ADVISES AT-RISK GROUPS AND CAREGIVERS TO GET A
FLU SHOT EARLY**
Select Groups Encouraged to Seek Flu Vaccination Before the End of October

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) is advising selected at-risk groups and caregivers to get their flu shots now. Almost anyone may benefit from getting the flu shot, but some people have a greater need for it than others. Following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the DOH advises that the following people get their flu shot before the end of October:

- Persons 65 years of age and older
- Residents of long term care facilities or nursing homes
- Persons 2-64 years of age with high risk health conditions
- Pregnant women
- Children 6-23 months of age
- Health care workers who have direct patient contact
- Persons who live with or take care of children younger than six months of age.

“The Department of Health is cautiously optimistic about the vaccine supply this year and recommends that those at risk or those providing care seek their flu vaccination before the end of October. Some physicians have already received their supplies of flu vaccine and over 100 flu vaccination clinics are planned statewide through November,” said Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D.

Persons interested in getting a flu shot should talk to their doctor or call 2-1-1 to find a community flu shot clinic in their neighborhood. Beginning October 24, 2005, anyone, including those in the groups listed above who have still not been vaccinated, are encouraged to receive a flu shot.

On Friday, September 23, starting at 8:30 a.m., the Hawaii Seniors' Fair at the Blaisdell Arena will offer flu and pneumonia shots to hundreds of seniors and others. Seniors with Medicare part B may receive their flu shot at no cost. Flu vaccinations will be available during the entire Hawaii Seniors' Fair: The Good Life Expo, which runs from September 23 through 25 ending at 4:30 p.m. each day.

For additional information about flu, visit www.vaxhawaii.com. **Fight the Flu: Make a Date to Vaccinate.**

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