



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

---

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO M.D.  
DIRECTOR  
Phone: (808) 586-4410  
Fax: (808) 586-4444

---

For Immediate Release: October 5, 2004

04-75

**DOH OUTLINES PRIORITIES FOR ADMINISTERING FLU VACCINE:  
UNEXPECTED SHORTAGE OF FLU VACCINE FOR 2004-2005 INFLUENZA SEASON**

HONOLULU — Following this morning's announcement that America's flu vaccine supply has been cut in half as a result of Britain shutting down a major supplier, the Department of Health issued priority guidelines to ensure the most vulnerable populations are protected this flu season.

Approximately half of the expected 100 million doses of flu vaccine will be available in the U.S. for the 2004-2005 influenza season after British regulators suspended the license of Chiron Corp., the world's second-leading flu vaccine supplier, for three months. In response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidelines to prioritize recipients of the limited supply. The Hawaii State Department of Health supports these measures and will focus on the most vulnerable populations in need of the flu vaccine.

"The unexpected shortage in flu vaccine supply is challenging. It is important to remember that we have faced shortages in the past and have gotten through them," said Dr. Linda Rosen, Deputy Director, Hawaii State Department of Health. "We are asking for the public's help to make sure the vaccine goes to those who need it most."

The public is urged to self-identify and help family members that fall into these high-risk groups and call their doctor. Below is a list of priority groups for vaccination of influenza, as identified by the CDC:

- all children aged 6–23 months,
- adults aged  $\geq$  65 years,
- persons aged  $\geq$  2–64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions,
- all women who will be pregnant during influenza season,
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities,
- children 6 months-18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy,
- health-care workers with direct patient care, and
- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged <6 months.

Persons who are not included in one of these priority risk groups, including healthy adults, should forgo or defer getting a flu shot this year.

The public is asked to call 2-1-1 for information on where to locate flu shot clinic in their neighborhood. The public can also log on to [www.vaxhawaii.com](http://www.vaxhawaii.com) for an updated list of hours and locations of clinics.

###

For more information, contact:  
Darcie Yukimura  
Information Specialist  
Department of Health  
Phone: 808-586-4402  
E-mail: [dayukimura@mail.health.state.hi.us](mailto:dayukimura@mail.health.state.hi.us)