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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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State receives more H1N1 vaccine

Shots and nasal spray targeted to priority groups

(Anchorage, AK) — The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services is continuing to receive H1N1 flu vaccine from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This week the state received additional supplies of both injectable and nasal vaccine. To date, Alaska has received 30,800 doses of vaccine.

“We have only received about 5 percent of what we ultimately expect to get,” said Sally Abbott, manager of the Division of Public Health’s preparedness program. “We are still targeting all vaccine for use by our five priority groups. We’re asking everyone else to wait until we have larger supplies.”

The state will be sending 2,800 injectable and 5,700 nasal spray vaccine doses to pharmacies and public health centers around the state. The vaccine is expected to be in those locations before the end of October.

The five groups considered to be priorities for receiving the H1N1 vaccine include:

- pregnant women;
- anyone who lives with or cares for children younger than 6 months old;
- health-care and emergency service workers;
- everyone age 6 months–24 years old; and
- adults age 25–64 who have chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

Other actions that can help prevent the spread of viruses include:

- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve, or cover your nose and mouth with a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Disinfect hard surfaces using a diluted bleach solution or commercial sanitizer.
- Stay home if you get sick.

For more information go to: www.pandemicflu.alaska.gov or call the Pan Flu Hotline at 1-888-9PANFLU.

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