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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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State relaxes restrictions on H1N1 vaccine

Vaccine to be offered to all Alaskans

(Anchorage, AK) — The Department of Health and Social Services, Section of Epidemiology, has decided to expand the offer of H1N1 vaccine to all Alaskans beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Previously the vaccine had been limited to people in the five priority groups.

“The state has received more than 131,000 doses of vaccine and there’s more on the way,” said Sally Abbott, preparedness program director and incident commander for the H1N1 response. “We feel that by now everyone in the priority groups who has wanted a vaccine has had the chance to get one. Of course, those in the priority groups are still strongly encouraged to get vaccinated, but we’re expanding our offer of vaccine to all Alaskans.”

Projections from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that Alaska will be allocated more than 214,000 doses of vaccine by mid-December.

Vaccine will continue to be distributed to state public health centers; and to doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and other providers registered through the state’s VacTrAK system.

A schedule of upcoming public health vaccine clinics is available on the state’s pandemic flu Web site at: www.pandemicflu.alaska.gov

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DHSS is now on Twitter. Follow health updates at www.twitter.com/Alaska_DHSS.

A press availability will be held today (Monday, Nov. 30) at 11 am in room 515 of the Frontier Building, 36th between A and C streets.

A telephone conference line will also be available at: 1-800-944-8766, enter 94077#