

Bill Hogan
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110601
Juneau, AK 99811-0601
www.hss.state.ak.us



Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Contact: Dawnell Smith, (907) 269-4541, dawnell.smith@alaska.gov
Ann Potempa, (907) 269-7957, Cell (907) 230-4001, ann.potempa@alaska.gov

State responds to second non-safety related recall of some H1N1 vaccine *Vaccine safety not in question, no need to re-immunize*

(Anchorage, AK) — The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services is in the process of notifying Alaska providers who received certain shipments of H1N1 nasal spray vaccine that remaining doses of the vaccine have been voluntarily recalled by the manufacturer, MedImmune.

The manufacturer is conducting a non-safety related voluntary recall of these identified lots of vaccine. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), during routine testing of vaccine, MedImmune discovered that over time, 13 lots of the nasal spray vaccine began to fall slightly short of the pre-specified potency limit or were at risk of falling below that limit within the upcoming week. The slight decrease in potency should not affect how the vaccine works.

Alaska received 10,410 doses of the identified vaccine and distributed this vaccine to just over 100 medical providers statewide.

“As with the last recall, there are no safety concerns with this vaccine,” said Laurel Wood, immunization program manager for the state Division of Public Health. “Our records indicate that more than 85 percent of this vaccine has already been used by Alaska providers. People who were vaccinated do not need to take any action, other than to complete the two-dose immunization series for children ages 9 and under.”

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

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