



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

August 4, 2009

Carmen Himenes, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Hawaii Catholic Schools
6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Dr. Himenes:

The Department of Health (DOH) requests your support in planning potential novel H1N1 (pandemic) vaccination clinics in schools statewide. These clinics would likely be held in the fall/winter of 2009 on dates separate from the scheduled "Stop Flu at School" *seasonal* flu vaccination clinics.

Many critical unknowns remain, such as when a novel H1N1 vaccine may be available, the quantities that will be produced, who will be prioritized, and whether a second dose will be required. It is also unclear how long the current novel H1N1 influenza pandemic will persist and whether the severity may increase. However, the largest number of confirmed novel H1N1 influenza cases to date have occurred in persons between the ages of 5 and 24 years, and novel H1N1 influenza has caused numerous outbreaks in schools and summer camps over the past several months. Therefore, strong indications from the U.S. Department for Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are that school children will be among the top priority tier for novel H1N1 vaccination.

We are extremely fortunate to have an established partnership with the Hawaii Catholic Schools to provide seasonal flu vaccine in the Catholic schools through the "Stop Flu at School" program. This collaborative effort will provide the infrastructure necessary to enable us to meet the challenges of preparing for novel H1N1 vaccination clinics.

The DOH is planning to send a letter to Catholic school principals, requesting their assistance and participation in preparing for potential novel H1N1 vaccination clinics in the schools this fall/winter, with the goal of reducing novel H1N1 flu virus transmission from schools to homes and the community and decreasing the likelihood of school outbreaks. These clinics, as mentioned previously, would be separate from the currently scheduled "Stop Flu at

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School” seasonal flu vaccination clinics. The DOH will make every effort to maintain a close working relationship with the schools to ensure timely communication and guidance regarding novel H1N1 vaccination clinic planning.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Sarah Park with the Disease Outbreak Control Division at (808) 587-6845.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chiyome Eeinaala Fukino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chiyome Eeinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health