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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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State orders second shipment of H1N1 vaccine

Shots and nasal spray to arrive next week

(Anchorage, AK) — The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services today confirmed its second order of H1N1 vaccine from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

An order has been placed for 9,600 doses of injectable vaccine and an additional 4,000 doses of the nasal spray vaccine.

The vaccine is expected to arrive in Alaska the week of Oct. 12 and will be distributed as quickly as possible to pre-registered hospitals, pediatricians and family practice physicians statewide. The decision was made to distribute to these facilities because they are most likely to be in immediate contact with individuals in the established priority groups. Vaccine will be more widely distributed as additional vaccine is received in Alaska over the coming weeks.

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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