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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY
Contact: Karl Moeller
(202) 898-0435
karlm@cphfoundation.org

HHS and Legislators Remind Families that H1N1 Vaccination Remains Critical

Media Event to Highlight National Influenza Vaccination Week

Washington, D.C.— The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 47 million Americans came down with H1N1 influenza between April and mid-November 2009. This virus caused more than 200,000 hospitalizations and is responsible for about 10,000 deaths. Children and young adults were hit hardest and represent the majority of deaths from H1N1. Experts continue to be concerned that the H1N1 influenza virus may peak again in the future. With H1N1 vaccine available across the country, public health officials are stressing the need for continued vaccinations.

The Campaign for Public Health Foundation, in partnership with the Congressional Study Group on Public Health, the Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC and others, will hold an important media event on Capitol Hill. **Its goal is to spread awareness of the vaccine's availability and stress the ongoing importance of getting vaccinated.** This event will encourage continued vaccinations of children and young adults aged 6 months to 24 years, pregnant women and caregivers of infants less than 6 months old. The following leaders, legislators and other notables are expected to attend:

- **Bruce Gellin, M.D., M.P.H.**, National Vaccine Program Office, Department of Health and Human Services
- **The Congressional Study Group on Public Health**
- **Henry Lin, M.D.**, Families Fighting Flu and a father whose 7-year-old died from the H1N1 virus
- **Raymond A. Strikas, M.D.**, medical officer, National Vaccine Program Office, DHHS
- **David B. Nelson, M.D.**, Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics; Georgetown University Hospital
- **Georgetown University's Kids Mobile Medical Care Unit** will be on site, offering free H1N1 vaccinations to children and families on a *first-come, first-served* basis, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WHERE: The Family Room, 411 8th Street SE, 2nd Floor (near the Eastern Market Metro Station)

WHEN: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday the 13th, **Family Flu Vaccination Day** is part of **National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW)**. NIVW runs from January 10-16, 2010. First launched in 2006, NIVW brings awareness of the risks of seasonal flu and strives to foster greater use of flu vaccine after the holiday season into January and beyond – a time of year that many do not realize is still peak flu season. NIVW events are particularly important this year because of the existence of seasonal and H1N1 influenza viruses. For a complete listing of NIVW activities—and details on H1N1 and seasonal flu—visit www.flu.gov/getvaccinated.

The CPH Foundation is working to educate the public, the media, policy makers and others about the important role public health plays in our nation's health system. More on The CPH Foundation is available at www.CPHFoundation.org.



The Congressional Study Group on Public Health is a bipartisan congressional member organization co-chaired by Representatives Lucile Roybal-Allard, Kay Granger and Jim McGovern. The Study Group was founded in 2007 to help highlight the important public health work done by local, state, federal and international health experts.

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