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Better Health

A Weekly Update
for Asante Employees

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every day, every time.



ASANTE® News

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Asante Rogue Regional Zeros in on Flu Shot Target

Another 17 employees at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center were vaccinated in the most recent week, pulling the Medford hospital within 79 flu shots of its target with 10 ½ weeks remaining in this year's campaign.



The latest weekly report from Asante Employee Health shows that 1,773 of Asante Rogue Regional's 2,427 employees – 72.75 percent – have received their flu shots. The facility's target is 76 percent.

Asante's four other entities – Asante Physician Partners, Asante Three Rivers, Asante Ashland and Asante corporate – all have met or surpassed their flu shot goals, the Employee Health report shows.

All full-time employees in Asante entities that meet or exceed their flu shot targets will receive \$100 bonuses under this year's PEAK Awards program.

Asante's leaders sent letters last month to notify unvaccinated employees that state regulators have asked Oregon hospitals to provide records of flu shots or signed

declination forms for all employees. The declination forms – from those who decline flu shots – do not help with Asante's vaccination goals, but are required by the state.

Health officials in Oregon and around the country have advised hospitals to let their employees know that flu shots are the best bet for avoiding infection. The protection extends to patients, some of whom are considered especially vulnerable to the potentially life-threatening virus.

The national influenza hospitalization rate is 44.1 for every 100,000 in population for the current flu season, which began Oct. 1. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control is now warning that because this flu season began relatively early, it could last longer than usual.

The CDC [continues to recommend flu shots](#) for everyone 6 months of age and older as the "first and most important step" in avoiding influenza. Studies indicate that annual vaccination reduces mortality from the flu by 41 percent.

Flu season usually peaks in the U.S. between December and February, but outbreaks can continue as late as May.

At Asante, free vaccinations are available to all employees at the Employee Health Departments of all three hospitals. This winter's Asante flu shot campaign continues through April 30.