

ASANTE® News

ASANTE ASHLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL | ASANTE PHYSICIAN PARTNERS | ASANTE ROGUE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | ASANTE THREE RIVERS MEDICAL CENTER

CDC Reports Flu “Widespread” in Oregon

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in its most recent weekly report that influenza is “widespread” in Oregon and 45 other states – up from a total of 43 states the previous week, and 36 the week before that. The Oregon Health Authority reported 17 flu outbreaks and 89 flu-related hospitalizations during the most recent week.



Nationwide, a total of 45 influenza-associated deaths in 19 states have been reported during this year’s flu season. None have been in Oregon.

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.

Meanwhile, Asante continued to close in this week on its organization-wide goal of a 76 percent influenza vaccination rate. Four of five entities – corporate, Asante Physician Partners, Asante Ashland Community Hospital and Asante Three Rivers – are at or above their vaccination goals. A total of 1,659 employees at Asante Rogue Regional have received flu shots,

and the hospital is within about 185 vaccinations of its goal.

The organization-wide vaccination rate stands at just over 73 percent.

Letters from Asante’s leaders were sent last week to notify unvaccinated employees that state regulators have asked Oregon hospitals to provide records of flu shots or signed declination forms for all employees.

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. And the protection extends to patients, some of whom are considered especially vulnerable to the potentially life-threatening virus.

Asante’s Productive Employees Achieving Key Goals (PEAK) awards plan for 2015 includes a \$100 bonus for each full-time employee if the organization reaches the 76 percent flu shot target by the end of April.

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

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