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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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Flu Shot Campaign May Swing on New Hires

Asante's five-month influenza vaccination campaign has come down to a precious few outstanding flu shots, and the final outcome at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center could be determined by a group of new employees who will begin work March 16.



The most recent weekly report from Asante Employee Health indicates that Asante Rogue Regional is 34 shots away from its goal of vaccinations for 76 percent of its employees. The 30 employees who begin work next week are counted on the report, but their flu shot status has not been determined.

If the Medford hospital reaches its 76 percent goal by April 30, all full-time employees will receive \$100 bonuses under this year's PEAK Awards program. Asante's four other entities – Asante Physician Partners, Asante Three Rivers, Asante Ashland and Asante corporate – all have surpassed their flu shot goals and their employees have qualified for the PEAK bonuses.

As of Feb. 27, a total of 3,576 employees at all Asante entities had received flu shots this winter. That amounts to 76.94 percent of the organization's 4,648 employees.

At Asante Rogue Regional, 1,823 out of 2,444 employees had received vaccinations – 74.59 percent.

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 U.S. Centers for Disease Control [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.

The federal agency warns that flu 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.

Asante News is published every Tuesday. Deadline for submission of articles is every Friday. Send via e-mail to asantenews@asante.org.

Question or suggestions: Call Communications and Marketing at (541) 789-3510 or extension 13510.