

Welcome to
Better Health

A Weekly Update
for Asante Employees

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every day, every time.

ASANTE® News

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

Four of Five Entities Reach Flu Shot Goals

Four of five entities at Asante have met or surpassed their influenza vaccination goals for this year, and the fifth – Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center – has gained ground on its goal, according to the latest weekly report from the Employee Health Department.



Asante Ashland Community Hospital is the latest of the organization's entities to achieve its flu shot goal. Asante Ashland was just half of a vaccination away from its goal a week earlier, and picked up another four vaccinations in the latest week. Asante Three Rivers, Asante Physician Partners and Asante Corporate all achieved their flu shot goals earlier.

Asante Rogue Regional moved within 133 flu shots of its annual vaccination goal after 14 more employees were vaccinated in the most recent week.

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. 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.

Oregon is one of 46 states in which influenza is currently "widespread," according to the most recent report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 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.

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 Departments of all three hospitals. This winter's Asante flu shot campaign continues through April 30.