

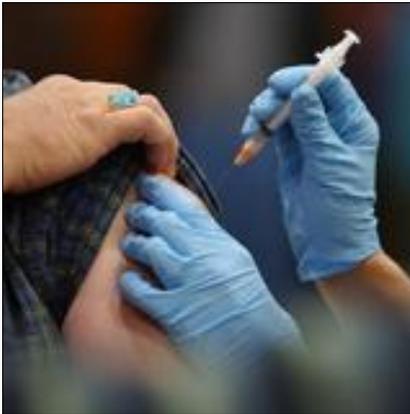
Welcome to  
Better Health

A Weekly Update  
for Asante Employees

Every patient,  
every day, every time.

# ASANTE® News

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



## Asante Near Flu Shot Goal as Letter Sent to Unvaccinated

Asante edged closer this week to its organization-wide goal of a 76 percent influenza vaccination rate, just as letters were sent by Asante's leaders to those who have not yet received flu shots. The letters notified unvaccinated employees that state regulators have asked Oregon hospitals to provide records of flu shots or signed declination forms for all employees.

"You can still help us build a strong front against the flu this winter by receiving a free flu vaccine from your nearest Asante Employee Health office," the letters said.

Meanwhile, the organization has moved within 4 percentage points and a total of 215 vaccinations from its 76 percent overall vaccination rate. Three of five entities – corporate, Asante Physician Partners and Asante Three Rivers – are at or above their vaccination goals. Asante Ashland Community Hospital is within two vaccinations of its goal, while Asante Rogue Regional remains 213 vaccinations short of its goal.

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.

Health officials in Oregon and around the country have advised hospitals to let their employees know that flu shots remain 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.

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. [The CDC recommends an annual vaccination](#) for everyone 6 months of age and older as the "first and most important step" in avoiding influenza, a preventable disease that can lead to death in some cases. Studies indicate that annual vaccination reduces mortality from the flu by 41 percent.

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.