

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

Thirty-six Vaccinations from the Finish Line

An influenza vaccination campaign that has covered five months and resulted in flu shots for 3,558 Asante employees is now just 36 shots from its goal, according to the most recent weekly report from Asante Employee Health.



Employees at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center were within one and a half percentage points, or 36 individual shots, of reaching the hospital's goal of vaccinations for 76 percent of its employees.

Asante's four other entities – Asante Physician Partners, Asante Three Rivers, Asante Ashland and Asante corporate – all have 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 by April 30 will receive \$100 bonuses under this year's PEAK Awards program.

As of Feb. 27, a total of 3,558 employees at all Asante entities had received flu shots this winter. That amounts to 76.83

percent of the organization's 4,631 employees.

At Asante Rogue Regional, 1,813 out of 2,434 employees had received vaccinations – 74.49 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 said the influenza-related hospitalization rate for people who are 65 or older rose to 242.2 per 100,000 in the most recent week – the highest rate recorded for any age group since such records began nine years ago. The federal agency 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.