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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

“Flu Cart” to Follow Food Cart

Some of Asante Rogue Regional’s overnight employees may have an interesting dessert option on Thursday night. [The hospital’s food cart](#), which rounds every night with nutritional options ranging from celery to jerky, will be followed by a “flu cart.”



But the flu cart will offer just one menu item: flu shots.

It’s the latest effort by the Employee Health Department to maintain the momentum of this year’s “Get Your Dot On!” vaccination campaign. Employee Health will also be reaching out to the managers of departments with low participation rates and encouraging them to promote flu shots to employees as the most effective means of protecting themselves, their families and Asante’s patients from infection.

The Asante Rogue Regional food cart makes its nightly rounds from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., and the one-time-only flu cart will follow on Thursday (Dec. 17), beginning at about 11:30 p.m.

Organization-wide, Asante’s vaccination rate rose to just under 64 percent last week – up about two percentage points from the previous week. Asante hit its organization-wide goal of a 76 percent vaccination rate for all full-time employees for the 2014-2015 flu season, and has the same immunization goal this winter.

Asante Physician Partners continued to lead the way in this most recent weekly flu shot report, with just over 72 percent of its employees vaccinated. Asante Three Rivers had more than 71 percent vaccinated, Asante Corporate had almost 69 percent, the Asante Foundation had 60 percent, Asante Ashland Community Hospital had more than 60 percent and Asante Rogue Regional more than 58 percent.

Overall, 3,196 out of the total of 5,000 Asante employees have received their shots for the 2015-16 flu campaign.

The theme of this year’s flu shot campaign is “Get Your Dot On!” – and it offers incentives for employees who display proof of their immunization by [attaching a “red dot” ring](#) to their identification badges. Employees who receive flu shots are given small silicone bands – adorned with red dots – that fit just above their badges, on either lanyards or badge reels.

Asante employees are urged to visit the nearest Employee Health office to receive their shots. Those who have received shots elsewhere or who have chosen not to be vaccinated are asked to fill out [declination/attestation forms](#) and return them to employee health, to assist with the organization’s state-mandated record-keeping.

Health officials in Oregon and around the country have advised hospitals to let their employees know that protection from flu shots extends to patients, some of whom are considered especially

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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 best option for avoiding influenza. Studies indicate that annual vaccination reduces mortality from the flu by 41 percent.

Most seasonal flu activity typically occurs between October and May, but it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection. Flu activity most commonly peaks in the United States between December and February.

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