

Welcome to  
Better Health

A Weekly Update  
for Asante Employees

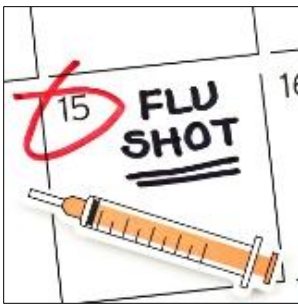
Every patient,  
every day, every time.

# ASANTE® News

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

## Asante Close to Flu Shot Goal

Asante has moved within 147 flu shots and a couple percentage points of its annual vaccination goal, which will result in \$100 bonuses for all full-time employees under this year's PEAK Awards program.



Asante Physician Partners, Asante Three Rivers and Asante Corporate all are at or above their individual vaccination goals, and Asante Ashland Community Hospital is half of a vaccination away from its goal. Asante Rogue Regional moved within 147 vaccinations of its goal, after picking up 38 vaccinations in the past week, even though nine of its 92 units had vaccination levels below 50 percent.

Asante's Employee Health Department, which administers the flu shot program, attributed the most recent week's gains to a combination of factors. Nursing leaders at Asante Rogue Regional provided nurses to

make flu shot rounds, and more staff members have been providing documentation that they have received vaccinations elsewhere.

Overall, Asante is just over two percentage points from its goal vaccination rate of 76 percent.

Asante's leaders sent letters this 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.