

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

Flu Shot Target Within Reach

Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center has edged within double-digits of its influenza vaccination target, with 2 ½ months remaining in the annual campaign. Asante Employee Health estimates that about 96 more vaccinations among the Medford hospital's 2,434 employees will put Asante Rogue Regional at its goal of a 76 percent vaccination rate.



Asante's four other entities – Asante Physician Partners, Asante Three Rivers, Asante Ashland and Asante corporate – all have met or surpassed their flu shot targets, according to the latest weekly report from the Employee Health Department.

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.

A total of 11,897 laboratory-confirmed cases of hospitalizations related to influenza have occurred since the current flu season began Oct. 1. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control 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 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.

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

Question or suggestions: Call Communications and Marketing at (541) 789-3510 or extension 13510.