

ASANTE® News

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

Department Shows Healthy Appetite for Flu Shot Campaign

The recipe for flu shot success is surprisingly easy to follow and has only a few ingredients: availability, direct oversight, a sense of responsibility and the power of “thank you.”



The Emergency Department at Asante Three Rivers has used those components to whip up a vaccination rate of almost 85 percent in this winter’s ongoing flu shot campaign. That’s a much more palatable result at the campaign’s halfway point than the hospital’s 71 percent overall rate or the 64 percent rate for all of Asante.

De Lisa Smith, the emergency department’s clinical manager, has kept tabs on her coworkers’ participation in the flu campaign. She said there have been some steps taken that other units throughout Asante could duplicate to improve their vaccination rates, but the most important thing has been

department members’ desire to do the right thing.

“Really, the biggest contributing factor is our nurses’ strong sense of community and protecting those we serve,” De Lisa said. “I know that may sound corny, but it’s just the truth.”

It does help that influenza vaccine is readily available in the department’s Omnicell cabinet, the vaccination paperwork is accessible for all, and staff members have been willing to inject each other. Charge nurses have been given the names of those on each shift who haven’t received their vaccinations, and have encouraged them to participate.

De Lisa has kept her department’s share of “Red Dot” flu campaign rings in her office, and hands one out with a personal thank-you after each employee receives a flu shot.

“It was nice to have control of the red dots because it allowed me to personally give them out, and I made sure to acknowledge staff in front of their peers,” she said.

That positive reinforcement has been a big part of the mix for her department, with 67 of its 79 employees vaccinated as of the most recent weekly flu shot report.

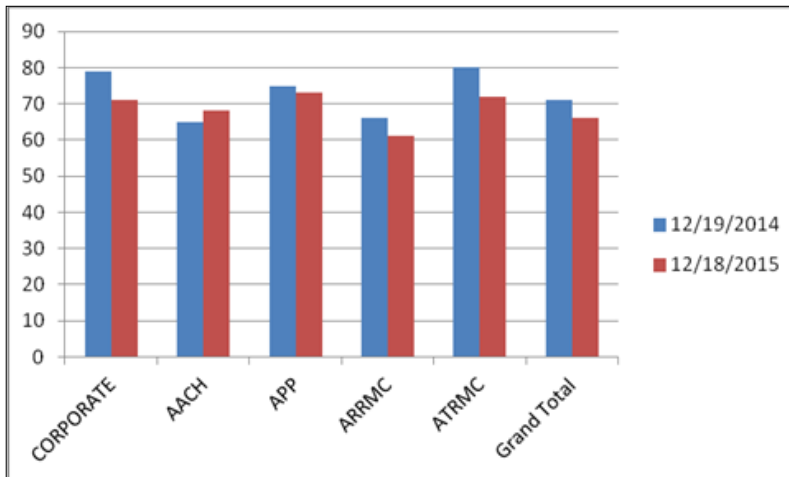
The theme of this year’s flu shot campaign is “Get Your Dot On!” and it has offered incentives for employees who display proof of their immunization by [attaching a “red dot” ring](#) to their identification badges. Employees who receive flu shots are given small silicone bands – adorned with red dots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

Organization-wide, Asante’s vaccination rate of just under 64 percent is about five percentage points behind last year’s rate at the same point in the campaign. 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

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same immunization goal this winter.

Asante Ashland Community Hospital is the only entity that is running ahead of its pace from 2014 – about 68 percent this year, which is about three percentage points ahead of last year.



Asante Physician Partners had the highest participation rate among all Asante entities in the most recent weekly flu shot report, with more than 72 percent of its employees vaccinated – about one percentage point behind last year’s rate at the same point in the campaign. Asante Three Rivers was close behind with more than 71 percent vaccinated – but was about 9 percentage points behind last year’s pace. Asante Corporate had more than 70 percent of its employees vaccinated in the most recent report, which is about 8

percentage points behind last year. Asante Rogue Regional trailed all entities, with just over 60 percent of its employees vaccinated – about 4 percentage points behind its pace from a year ago.

Asante employees are urged to visit the nearest Employee Health office to receive their shots, and Asante Pharmacy locations in Medford and Grants Pass also have free vaccinations available for employees.

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 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.