



TO: University Clinical Faculty and Staff

FROM: James Hill, MD
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RE: Influenza Vaccine for University Clinical Faculty and Staff

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As many of you are aware, the Centers for Disease Control, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2010 report is now recommending routine influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥ 6 months (available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/>). This represents an expansion of the previous recommendations for annual vaccination of all adults aged 19-49 years and is supported by evidence that annual influenza vaccination is a safe and effective preventive health action with potential benefit in all age groups

Both UNC and UNC Health Care received its initial allotment of influenza vaccine in early September and are working towards a goal of at least an 80% vaccine uptake rate among clinical faculty and staff. Both inactivated (flu shots) and live attenuated (nasal spray) are available. Only 1 dose of influenza vaccine will be required this year, since the novel 2009 H1N1 strain has been incorporated into the annual influenza vaccine. Both thimerosal free and/or latex free vaccine are also available.

If you are in the University's immunization review program (which includes all clinical faculty with direct patient care), there are several ways to receive your influenza vaccine:

- 1) The University Employee Occupational Health Clinic (located at 145 N. Medical Drive in the former Health Sciences Bookstore Building) will provide a dedicated flu vaccination clinic from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13, Friday, Oct. 15, Monday, Oct. 25, and Wednesday, Oct. 27. Vaccinations are available on a walk-in basis Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., however the wait may be longer. No appointment is necessary; there is no charge for this service.
- 2) If you are already scheduled, or need to schedule, your annual PPD or immunization review, the influenza vaccine will be offered to you at the time of that appointment.
- 3) The University is also offering flu clinics for non-healthcare personnel. If none of the walk-in clinics above work for you, then you can schedule an appointment through this program at <http://ehs.unc.edu/ueohc/flushot.shtml>.

Other notes:

- If you received your influenza vaccination at an outside clinic/provider (i.e. not one of the three options listed above), please write your University PID number on the documentation and fax a copy to the UEOHC at 966-6337 so that your record can be updated.
- Trivalent Influenza Vaccine (TIV) is contraindicated and should not be administered to the following groups:
 - Persons known to have anaphylactic hypersensitivity to eggs or to other components of the influenza vaccine unless the recipient has been desensitized.
 - Persons with moderate to severe acute febrile illness usually should not be vaccinated until their symptoms have abated. Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever is a precaution for TIV.
 - Guillain-Barré Syndrome within 6 weeks following a previous dose of influenza vaccine is considered to be a precaution for use of influenza vaccines.
- TIV (the injectable vaccination) contains inactivated viruses and thus cannot cause influenza.

Influenza epidemics have been associated with more than 250,000 hospitalizations (1979-2001) and an average of 36,000 deaths (1990-1999). **Multiple studies have demonstrated that healthcare facilities that achieve high rates of immunization of their employees have lower rates of influenza infection and deaths in their patients.** In addition to protecting patients, influenza immunization is associated with reduced rates of illness among healthcare personnel.

We hope you will make every effort to help the University and UNC Health Care System meet our goal of 80% vaccine uptake in our clinical faculty and staff.