

September 16, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

The fall and winter flu season is here, and as a health care organization, it is our responsibility and obligation to protect our patients, visitors, and colleagues—as well as ourselves and our family members—by being immunized against the seasonal influenza virus.

Vendors, contractors, and any other individuals working in a UI Hospitals and Clinics setting during the flu season will be required to do one of the following:

- Provide proof of immunization from a health care provider or local pharmacy. This may include a signed physician's note, receipt for payment, immunization record (dated and signed), or a copy of a medical record document.
- Apply for a certificate of exemption if you have a medical excuse—for example, if you are allergic to eggs (used in influenza vaccine)—or have other medical or religious reasons to be exempted from the immunization program. Applications for medical or religious exemptions are available on the Web from the Iowa Department of Public Health:  
[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ADPER/common/pdf/immunization/products/cert\\_of\\_immunization.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ADPER/common/pdf/immunization/products/cert_of_immunization.pdf)  
Individuals who have received a medical or religious exemption from the program will be required to wear a surgical mask when in the presence of patients or other staff members during a community outbreak of influenza.

This year's flu season is from October 16, 2009, through March 31, 2010. Any individual working for any period of time at a UI Health Care setting during the flu season shall be required to comply. The prime vendor or general contractor shall maintain, and make a copy available upon request, a daily log of individuals working on site and provide either proof of immunization or a certificate of exemption for each individual.

It is the responsibility of the vendor to secure the appropriate vaccination. University of Iowa Health Care will provide vaccinations for a fee at UI Family Care Center site while supplies last. Please call a clinic for more details.

Seasonal influenza causes more than 200,000 hospitalizations and more than 36,000 deaths in the United States. By taking the important preventive step of becoming immunized against seasonal influenza, we can better ensure the health and safety of our patients and visitors, as well as all UI Health Care faculty, staff, volunteers, residents, fellows, student employee's vendors and contractors.

Please contact me if you have questions.

  
Jose A. Fernandez, Director, Capital Management  
Assistant Director UI HealthCare