

September 17, 2021

Dear Colleague:

We are asking for your assistance this year in reaching our goal of having 100% of our credentialed and privileged medical staff vaccinated against influenza! Providing a safe environment for patients, staff, volunteers, and visitors is our top priority. For the upcoming influenza season, influenza vaccinations will be paramount to reduce the impact of respiratory illnesses in the population and resulting burdens on the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***What do I need to do?***

- Provide proof of flu vaccination to the Salem Hospital Medical Staff Office or Employee Health Department, having received a flu vaccination **by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in November of each year (by November 12, 2021)**. Acceptable proof of annual flu vaccination documentation includes:
  - A signed statement or form, or an electronic form or email from you indicating when and where you received the influenza vaccine, or
  - A note, receipt, vaccination card, etc. from an outside vaccinating entity stating the provider received the influenza vaccine at the location.
  - NOTE: verbal statements are not acceptable for the purposes of this measure
- You can e-mail documentation to: [MedicalStaffOffice@salemhealth.org](mailto:MedicalStaffOffice@salemhealth.org)

### ***What if I need an exception approved?***

- By policy, the Medical Executive Committee (MEC) may exempt a provider from the flu vaccination requirement under the following situations:
  - **Medical:** Severe allergy to eggs or vaccine components, or history Guillain-Barre within 6 weeks of a prior flu vaccine. ***Providers requesting a medical exception must provide documentation of medical contraindications. All egg free vaccines are free of charge to credentialed providers and will be given at our Employee Health Department. An appointment must be scheduled in advance so that the vaccine can be sent over from the pharmacy. Should vaccines not be available or if a provider has a severe egg allergy, the provider shall submit in writing a statement to the MEC requesting an exception. Employee Health can be reached at 503-814-7250 or by visiting the Urgent Care Building at 1002 Bellevue St SE in Salem, on the north side of the Salem Health campus.***
  - **Religious:** Special religious accommodations requested in writing and approved by the MEC.

### ***How do I continue to protect everyone if I have been granted an exemption from the flu vaccination?***

- If a flu vaccination exception is granted by the MEC, the provider will provide written documentation attesting that he/she will wear a mask at all times while in a Salem Health patient care or clinical area performing clinical duties within 6 feet of a patient, and when entering a patient room during the influenza season. The influenza season is as defined by Salem Hospital

Infection Prevention. *\*Universal mask-on policy is in place for the COVID-19 pandemic on all Salem Health clinics and campus.*

### ***Where do I get my flu vaccination?***

- We realize that you may receive the vaccine at your own office or clinic, and would also like to offer you the option to be vaccinated through Salem Hospital Flu League Campaign and/or Employee Health Department if that would be convenient for you.
- If you work at Salem Hospital, we encourage you to obtain your vaccine on the unit with a Flu Champion nurse if at all possible.

#### Salem Hospital Flu Events:

- CHEC Room 1&2, Building D
  - Tuesday, October 5 from 7:30AM – 10:00AM
  - Thursday, October 14 from Noon – 2:00PM
  - Thursday, October 28 from 7:30AM – 10:00AM
  - Thursday, November 11 from Noon – 2:00PM

#### Regional Lab/State Street, Conference Room 2

- Tuesday, October 19 from 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

#### West Valley Hospital Tailgate

- Wednesday, October 6 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- Tuesday, October 12 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- Wednesday, October 29 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- Tuesday, November 9 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Thank you for helping to keep our shared patients and our collective staff healthier during this year's flu season.

Sincerely,



Leon Burrows, MD  
President, Salem Hospital Medical Staff

Sincerely,



Marc Sunday, DO  
President Elect, Salem Hospital Medical Staff