

INFLUENZA PLAN 2014-15

Influenza Information

- Importance of Influenza Vaccine
 - Signs & symptoms of influenza
 - Definition of influenza exposure
 - Performance of respiratory hygiene & cough etiquette
 - Work restrictions
 - Compliance with droplet precautions
 - Performance of aerosol-generating procedures
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- Locations:
 - Main Clinic Locations**
 - Springfield, Branson & Monett*
 - Clinical Areas in Hospital**
 - FDC**
 - Regional Services Clinics**
 - Wal-Mart Independence**
 - Learning Center**

IMPORTANCE OF INFLUENZA VACCINE

- *“Influenza is a contagious disease and anyone can get influenza.”*
- *“Young children, people 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions—such as heart, lung or kidney disease, or a weakened immune system—can get much sicker and are more common to succumb to the illness.”*
- *“Each year thousands of people die from influenza and even more require hospitalization. By getting flu vaccine you can protect yourself from influenza and may also avoid spreading influenza to others such as your friends and family.”*
- *“Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of severe influenza and their close contacts, including healthcare personnel and close contacts of children younger than 6 months.”*

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF INFLUENZA

- *Influenza is a respiratory illness with sudden onset. Common symptoms are:*
 - *Fever (>100.4 degrees F.)*
 - *Cough*
 - *Sore throat*
 - *Runny or stuffy nose*
- *Other symptoms are:*
 - *Severe body aches and extreme tiredness*
 - *Diarrhea and vomiting (more common in children than adults)*

DEFINITION OF INFLUENZA EXPOSURE

Susceptible Healthcare Worker (HCW) includes:

- *HCW unvaccinated or vaccinated within the last 14 days or less*
- *Having close, unprotected contact (No PPE* or inadequate PPE used within 6 feet) with person(s) with confirmed influenza who is coughing or sneezing*

**PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)*

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KEY POINTS

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

- *Respiratory Hygiene / Cough Etiquette*

Surgical Mask to be worn by individuals (Patients, Families, and HCW) with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection at entry into the facility.

- *Triage*
- *Reception*
- *Waiting areas*
- *Employee work area*
- *Encourage coughing persons to sit 3-6 feet away from others*
- *Encourage hand hygiene and frequent disposal of tissues*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth*

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

WORK RESTRICTIONS

- *HCW's who develop fever and respiratory symptoms should:*
 - *Put on a surgical mask, and promptly notify their supervisor.*
 - *Adhere to respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.*
 - **Return to Work Instructions:** *Employee may return to work after they have been fever free without the use of fever reducing medications such as acetaminophen for at least 24 hours.*

COMPLIANCE WITH DROPLET PRECAUTIONS

- *Droplet precautions should be implemented for patients with suspected or confirmed influenza for 7 days after illness onset or until 24 hours after resolution of fever and respiratory symptoms, whichever is longer.*
- *Private room is required.*
- *Healthcare workers should put on a surgical mask and eye protection when entering the room.*
- *Surgical mask and eye protection should be removed, disposed of and hand hygiene performed prior to leaving the room.*
- *Patient Transport: Upon leaving the room, patient is to wear a surgical mask and follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.*

Hospital Policy

**HCW refers to all persons paid or unpaid, working in a healthcare setting who have the potential for exposure to patients and/or infectious materials, including body substances, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, environmental surfaces or contaminated air.*

**INFLUENZA
VACCINATION WILL BE
REQUIRED OF ALL
HEALTHCARE
WORKERS (HCW*) AS
A CONDITION FOR
EMPLOYMENT.**

[LINK TO POLICY](#)
[LINK TO VIS](#)

Declination Options for Vaccination

Request an Exemption— [Click here to print exemption](#) form if you are completing the module from a Cox computer.

If you are doing from home open the second attachment labeled Exemption Form and print form.

Exemptions must be submitted to Employee Health on or before 8/22/2014 and will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

**Volunteers can register in
the Volunteer Offices.**

CoxHealth South 269-4169

CoxHealth North 269-3169

GENERAL INFORMATION

- *ALL HCW must register regardless of choice to take vaccine at CoxHealth, take vaccine at other location, or decline the vaccination.*
 - **Take Vaccine at CoxHealth:**
 - HCW must register, prescreen and make appointment online to be eligible for vaccination
 - The registration process will “pre-screen” and allow the employee to pick a location, date and time to be vaccinated
 - **Egg allergy is no longer a contraindication as we now have “egg-free” vaccine available.**
 - HCW 65 years of age and older will be offered **high dose vaccine** thru the Employee Health offices. Studies prove high dose vaccinations in this age group triggers a stronger immune response.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Decline Vaccination:** *HCW* must “register” and decline the vaccine online. Appropriate documentation (exemption form) must be submitted by 8/22/2014 to their Employee Health Department for consideration.
- **Vaccinated Elsewhere:**
 - Register in the database indicating that vaccination was obtained elsewhere.
 - Provide written documentation of vaccination to their Employee Health Department. Document Employee ID number on the document to ensure correct match of employee with record.

PRE-VACCINATION SCREENING

- *Some people should NOT get inactivated influenza vaccine:*
 - *If you have severe (life-threatening) reaction to the vaccine. (Allergic reactions to influenza vaccine are rare).*
 - *If you ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome (a severe paralytic illness, also called GBS) or other documented medical contraindication.*
 - *People who are severely ill should consult with their primary care physician.*

WORK RESTRICTIONS WITH EXEMPTION (IN THE EVENT OF A FLU OUTBREAK)

- *In the event of an outbreak, as determined by CoxHealth in consultation with the local health department:*
 - *Volunteers with approved exemptions will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine appropriate work settings and possible work restrictions.*
 - *Such Volunteers may be required to wear surgical isolation masks at all times while at work for the duration of the outbreak, and/or may be subject to other work settings and possible work restrictions as determined by CoxHealth.*

VOLUNTEERS

Current Volunteers will be offered vaccination free of charge from the start of the season through

November 7, 2014

- **Free vaccines will be available to CoxHealth Volunteers at the following times:**
 - Designated influenza campaign (when vaccine is available thru 11/7/14).
 - New hires and Volunteers returning from leave will be offered vaccination free of charge through the end of the season.
- **Special Considerations:**
 - Volunteers who are **pregnant** or think they might be pregnant, have an **egg allergy, requesting Flu Mist**, or are **65 years or older** wanting a **high dose vaccine** should report to their Employee Health Department to receive vaccination.