



DATE: September 6, 2022

TO: All Aspirus Employees and Medical Staff Members

FROM: Deb Ball, SVP - Chief Human Resources Officer  
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SUBJECT: 2022-2023 Influenza Safety Program

Aspirus Health is continuing our annual employee Influenza Safety Program for the 2022-23 flu season with the goal of vaccinating as many of our team members against influenza as possible.

All team members who are able, are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated against the flu this year as the best way to protect our patients, ourselves and our communities. Doing so greatly increases your chances of preventing illness and remaining available for our patients and your colleagues as experts are expecting the upcoming flu season to be particularly impactful.

The symptoms of COVID-19 and flu are similar and unfortunately, COVID-19 community transmission levels remain high in our service area. Aspirus earlier this year experienced firsthand the impacts of having significant portions of our workforce off work due to illness. By preventing the flu, you may be able to avoid missing work or the need for testing to rule out COVID-like symptoms.

### **The Program**

Our Influenza Safety Program includes the following, as outlined in the Mandatory Influenza Vaccination Compliance Policy:

1. **Participation** – Program participation by October 31, 2022, is mandatory for all Aspirus employees and includes either vaccination or completing an electronic declination. Non-compliant employees will be removed from their work schedule and subject to termination.
2. **Attestation/declination** – All employees on September 8, will receive an automated notification email with additional instructions. If you are getting your flu shot, simply attend an available flu clinic. If you do not get your flu shot by October 17, you will be assigned a date to receive one. If declining, you need to complete an electronic declination form that will be available via the intranet by the October 31 program participation deadline.
3. **Masking** – Those who decline the vaccine will be required to wear a mask for the duration of the flu season, regardless of any future relaxation of masking requirements related to COVID-19.

4. **Vaccinations** – Aspirus provides influenza vaccinations at no cost to employees and medical staff members.
5. **Stickers** – Stickers will again be used as part of our identification and tracking system to denote an employee's ability to unmask if COVID-19 masking requirements are relaxed in the future.

### **Vaccination Clinics**

Flu vaccination clinics are being offered through Aspirus Employee Health and vary by location.

[Vaccination clinic times and locations](#) are posted to the events calendar on the Aspirus intranet. Clinics are on a walk-in basis and do not require you to sign up in advance.

COVID-19 boosters will not be available during our flu clinics until Aspirus receives supply of the new [bivalent boosters](#) in late September or early October. Future updates regarding COVID boosters will be provided as information becomes available.

### **Aligned for our Communities**

Achieving a high influenza vaccination rate demonstrates our commitment to each other and the communities we serve. Getting your flu vaccination aligns with our Aspirus value of accountability and helps us live our mission of healing people, promoting health and strengthening communities.

***Thank you for supporting a safe work environment and protecting our most vulnerable patients.***