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From: <Medical.Staff@ucsfmedctr.org>

Date: Tue, 29 Sep 2009 15:30:03 -0700

To: "Baron, Bobby" <baron@medicine.ucsf.edu>

Conversation: FROM THE CEO & CMO -- New Flu Shot Policy

Subject: FROM THE CEO & CMO -- New Flu Shot Policy

Dear Colleagues,

To prepare for a potentially severe flu season, UCSF Medical Center and the UCSF Medical Staff Executive Medical Board are taking a proactive, comprehensive approach to protect our patients and employees. We have approved a policy requiring that all UCSF Medical Center employees and volunteers, regardless of work location, be vaccinated against the seasonal and H1N1 flu, or sign a statement declining vaccination. In addition, all UCSF faculty, including volunteer clinical faculty; housestaff; students and others who work in patient care areas must be vaccinated or sign the statement to decline.

As part of this new policy, anyone who declines a flu vaccination must wear a protective mask, supplied by UCSF, while in patient care areas – areas where patients are seen, evaluated and treated as well as in lobbies and waiting rooms.

The new policy is available on the medical center Intranet at <http://manuals.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/AdminManual/IndividualPolicies/InfluenzaVaccination.pdf>

The medical center is making every effort to protect employees from getting and spreading the flu and to protect our patients from getting the flu while in our care. This new policy will help safeguard you and your family, your co-workers and our patients. More information will be provided regarding this new requirement to wear a mask if you're not vaccinated and how the requirement will be enforced. In the meantime, please send any questions you have regarding flu shots and the new mask policy to OHS@ucsfmedctr.org.

Free, seasonal flu shots will be administered at UCSF clinics, starting on Monday, Oct 12. A schedule of these flu shot clinics can be found at www.occupationalhealthprogram.ucsf.edu/Forms/2009_Flu_Shot_Clinic_Schedule.doc. If you'd like a flu shot before Oct. 12, call Occupational Health at Mount Zion at 885-7580 to make an appointment. If you receive a flu shot at a location other than UCSF, please fax proof to Occupational Health at 771-4472 or send documentation via campus mail to Box 1661.

H1N1 flu vaccine is expected to arrive in late October or early November and we will distribute information about that vaccine as soon as it is available.

Please remember that hand hygiene is critical to controlling the spread of flu and other infectious diseases. Always wash your hands with soap and water or with a hand sanitizer before and after you see a patient or go into a patient room.

The situation with H1N1 influenza remains fluid and it's not yet clear how widespread the virus will become this winter. We will provide frequent updates and reminders throughout the flu season.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Laret
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Josh Adler

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UCSF Medical Center
UCSF Children's Hospital

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