

Piedmont Healthcare is bolstering its flu vaccination policy for all healthcare personnel because we are committed to the health and well-being of our patients, visitors, employees, employee's families, physician's, volunteers and students. As our Piedmont Promise states, we made a promise to do everything in our power to make you well and keep you well. We believe that without flu vaccinations, we are creating unnecessary risks to someone else's health.

Influenza is a serious illness that can be prevented with a safe and effective vaccine. This flu season the annual influenza vaccination will be a requirement for <u>all</u> employees, volunteers, physicians, contract staff, **students** and vendors throughout the system including Paces West and Piedmont West. All students will be required to bring proof of obtaining the influenza vaccination prior to the deadline of October 17, 2014, as we will not be offering free flu shots to students. Those who show proof of vaccination will receive a badge sticker to reflect receipt of the vaccination. Beginning **November 1, 2014**, all student and faculty in the Piedmont Healthcare system who have not been vaccinated will be required to wear a surgical mask while at work in all areas for the duration of the Influenza season (November 15, 2014-March 31, 2015). Surgical masks can be removed to eat or drink.

Anyone who is allergic to the vaccination, has a medical concern, or has a religious exemption must fill out an exemption form which can be obtained from Occupational Health Services (OHS). However, those students and faculty still must comply with mask requirements while at work for the duration of the flu season.

Those receiving the flu vaccine at their physician's office or another location must provide documentation to OHS. Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

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