

July 20, 2009

Dear Nursing Students and Faculty:

Senate Bill Number 739 went into effect January 2008. One mandate of this bill is that all healthcare employees be vaccinated against influenza. Therefore, **ALL** nursing students who are in the clinical setting during the months of October through March must receive the flu vaccine. Students in clinical during both the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters must be vaccinated. For students in the clinical setting during the Fall semester, this means that you are required to obtain the flu shot by October 31<sup>st</sup>. You will not be allowed in the clinical setting after this date if you have not received this vaccination. You must provide written documentation as proof of your vaccination to your clinical instructor by this date.

For students who will be attending clinical in the Spring, please obtain the flu vaccine by January 1, 2010. Keep this immunization documentation with your other clinical information and bring with you to your semester's Orientation session in January.

Your assistance is needed with the following:

- 1) Students in Fall clinical are encouraged to contact their primary care provider to obtain the vaccine at the earliest possible date. If you have HMO coverage (Kaiser for example) your flu shot may be free or available at a reduced rate or co-payment. Take your yellow immunization card with you and obtain proper written documentation.
- 2) The Santa Clara County Public Health Department has vaccination clinics available early Fall. (The cost was ~\$15.50 last year). Check online for updated information ([www.sccgov.org/portal/site/phd](http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/phd)).
- 3) The Student Health Center will have a limited supply of the vaccine ~mid-October. The cost is ~\$15.00. Call 408-924-6122 for an appointment.
- 4) Check your local Walgreens, CVS, Safeway, etc. for flu shot days/times (information may be found online). Safeway pharmacy, for example, typically offers walk-in flu shots for ~\$30.00.

Students and faculty who are allergic to eggs or thimerosal, or who are unable to receive the vaccine for other medical reasons, are required to sign a declination form.

Please note that nursing faculty members working in the clinical setting must be vaccinated as well.

Thank you for your attention to this time-sensitive matter. Your compliance is crucial to keeping our patients safe and preventing the spread of the influenza virus this season.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Stuenkel EdD, RN

Professor/Curriculum Coordinator