June 19, 2014

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 annually. Therefore, **ALL** nursing students and faculty who are in the clinical setting during the months of October through March must receive the flu vaccine. Students in clinical during the Fall and/or Spring semesters must receive the influenza vaccine. For students in the clinical setting during the Fall semester, this means that you are required to obtain the flu shot by October 31

You must provide written documentation as proof of your vaccination to your clinical instructor by this date.

Students who are not enrolled in a Fall clinical and who will be attending a clinical in the Spring semester, should obtain the flu vaccine by January 2nd. Keep this immunization documentation with your other clinical information and bring with you to your semester’s Orientation session in January.

Options for meeting this mandate include:

1) Individuals 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 provides flu vaccinations seasonally for ~$20.00. Check online for current information (www.sccgov.org/portal/site/phd).

3. The Student Health Center usually has a limited supply of the vaccine available ~mid-October. The cost is ~$20.00.

4) Check your local Walgreens, CVS, Safeway, etc. for flu shot days/times/cost (information may be found online).

Students and faculty who are allergic to eggs or thimerosal, or who are unable to receive the vaccine for other medical reasons, will be required to sign a declination form. Individuals declining vaccination must wear a mask in the clinical setting November 1 through the declared end of flu season in the spring.

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.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Stuenkel EdD, RN
Professor/Assistant Director