

Volunteer Update

Influenza and the Vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advocated for universal vaccination of health care workers (HCWs) since 1981, yet vaccination rates for this group still hover around 50 percent. After 30 years of trying to compel and persuade HCWs to be vaccinated, many professional organizations, patient advocacy groups and health care systems are endorsing mandatory vaccination policies.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Infectious Disease Society of America, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, the National Patient Safety Foundation and the State of New York are a few of the organizations that call for mandatory vaccination of HCWs. The American Nurses Association calls annual influenza vaccination an “ethical duty of every nurse.” The goal for Healthy People 2020 is to have at least 90 percent of all health care workers immunized annually against influenza.

More than 60 health care organizations across the United States have implemented mandatory immunization policies with exemptions for medical or religious reasons. Some of these institutions require unvaccinated employees to be reassigned to non-patient care areas or to wear a mask during flu season. None of these organizations have gone out of business. In fact, no institution that has implemented a mandatory policy has ever reversed such a policy except in situations where the vaccine supply was inadequate. You can see a complete list of organizations with mandatory policies at www.immunize.org/honor-roll/.

Virginia Mason Medical Center which has 5,000 employees in Seattle, Wash., recently published their experience five years after implementing a mandatory influenza vaccination policy. They achieved a 97.6 percent vaccination rate after the first year and maintained a 98 percent rate thereafter. Only 0.7 percent of employees were granted an exemption for medical or religious reasons and were required to wear a mask during flu season. Less than 0.2 percent of employees refused vaccination and left the organization.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to these volunteers who have service anniversaries in November.

9 Years

Laura Foley,
Gen Med RN
Vinod Velakaturi,
Gen Med Physician

4 Years

Maureen Pedrotti,
Gen Med RN
Otto Spurny,
Gen Med Physician

1 Year

James Bond,
Gen Med Chiropractor

John Ditto,
Data Entry
Steve Ham,
Gen Med Patient Asst.

Joe Latimer,
Gen Med RN
Adam McClure,
Gen Med Patient Asst.

Janey Pryor,
Development



Did You Know???

- ~ Wild turkeys can run at speeds of up to 25 miles per hour.
- ~ Benjamin Franklin wanted the national bird to be a turkey.
- ~ A spooked turkey can run at speeds up to 20 miles per hour. They can also burst into flight approaching speeds between 50-55 mph in a matter of seconds. So close, yet so far
- ~ A wild turkey has excellent vision and hearing. Their field of vision is about 270 degrees. This is the main reason they continue to elude some hunters.
- ~ Gobbling starts before sunrise and can continue through most of the morning.
- ~ Turkeys fly to the ground at first light and feed until mid-morning. Feeding resumes in mid-afternoon.
- ~ Turkeys spend the night in trees. They fly to their roosts around sunset.
- ~ Minnesota led the United States in turkey production in 2001. Forty-three million turkeys were produced.
- ~ Turkey eggs hatch in 28 days.
- ~ The fleshy growth under a turkey's throat is called a wattle.
- ~ Turkeys have a long, red, fleshy area called a snood that grows from the forehead over the bill.
- ~ The caruncle is a red-pink fleshy growth on the head and upper neck of the turkey.
- ~ Israelis eat the most turkeys.....28 pounds per person.
- ~ The costume that "Big Bird" wears on Sesame Street is rumored to be made of turkey feathers.
- ~ Turkey skins are tanned and used to make cowboy boots and belts

Now you know a little more about the infamous bird of the month

All facts noted from the following website: <http://www.funshun.com/amazing-facts/turkey-birds-facts.html>



If the only prayer you
said in your whole life
was, "thank you," that
would suffice.
~Meister Eckhart

Thank you to all volunteers that
allow KCFHC to continue to
provide quality health care for
those who can only say thank you
since 1971!

Interested in volunteering?
Contact Suzanne Sutton Lammert
at suzannel@kcfree.org or
816-777-2761