

Montefiore Update

September 29, 2014 KEEPING ASSOCIATES IN THE KNOW

Flu Season is Approaching: Get Your Shot

Influenza is a serious infectious disease that can lead to severe health consequences. Even healthy people can become extremely ill from the flu and spread it to others. On average, 30,000 people die from influenza infection and its complications each year.

This year marks Montefiore's second annual "I Got My Shot" campaign. The goal is to have 100 percent of associates receive an influenza vaccination. This vaccine is the safest and most effective way to prevent flu virus infection. The flu shot is an inactivated vaccine, meaning it is a vaccine that contains a killed flu virus, so you cannot get the flu from the vaccine.

There are few reasons not to get vaccinated. Only people with severe egg allergies, people who have suffered a severe reaction to influenza vaccination in the past and people with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome should not be vaccinated. Occupational Health Services (OHS) will offer the egg-free Flublok vaccine for associates with a routine egg allergy. It does not contain any egg proteins, antibiotics or preservatives. It is latex-free.

Regulations for Healthcare Personnel

In order to protect patients, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all healthcare personnel be immunized against influenza. In addition, New York State (NYS) regulations require all personnel in any healthcare facility, residential facility or agency licensed under Article 28 of the Public Health Law who are not vaccinated against influenza to wear a surgical mask while working in areas where patients may be present. Wearing this type of mask will reduce flu transmission from healthcare personnel to patients, particularly since individuals incubating influenza may shed the virus prior to experiencing noticeable symptoms. Masks must be worn by unvaccinated personnel whenever the NYS Health Commissioner declares that flu is "prevalent" in our area, meaning that a certain number of influenza cases have been reported in the state.

These regulations also require healthcare facilities to report data on influenza vaccinations for all healthcare personnel who physically work in the reporting facility for one or more days between October 1 and March 31. If an associate receives the vaccine outside of Montefiore, they must obtain documentation stating they received it, since Montefiore is required to provide this documentation to the NYS Department of Health. Associates who choose not to be vaccinated must formally decline to the Vaccination Team, as Montefiore is required to report that as well.

Get Your Flu Shot

Montefiore is committed to ensuring that as many of our associates as possible receive their influenza vaccine this season. To make this easier for associates, Montefiore will have carts visiting each unit during all shifts. In addition, the Vaccination Team will be in central locations on each campus. When associates receive their vaccinations at Montefiore or provide written documentation that they have received their flu shots from an outside provider, they will receive a blue tag to attach to their ID badge. The blue tag stating, "I Got My Shot," will be a simple way to visually confirm that an associate has been vaccinated.

Please visit "Flu HQ" on the intranet to obtain vaccination schedules and locations, as well as FAQs, flu facts and the state regulations.

Fast Facts about the Flu Vaccine

- The transmission of flu in healthcare settings is a major patient safety concern because healthcare personnel who have acquired the flu can easily spread the infection to patients in their care.
- All associates will receive their vaccine through fluzone quadrivalent inactivated single-dose syringes, which are latex-free.
- Routine egg allergy is not a reason to avoid getting the flu vaccine—associates with an egg allergy will be able to receive their shot under close supervision from OHS. OHS will offer the egg-free Flublok vaccine.
- Flu vaccines contain a killed virus; you can't get the flu from the vaccine. You may experience some minor side effects soon after receiving the shot, but these usually last no more than one or two days. These include soreness, redness or swelling where the shot is given, a low-grade fever and some aches. Almost all people who receive the flu vaccine have no serious problems from it.

I Got My Shot

Nursing Research Symposium Highlights Mentoring

Montefiore recently held its fourth annual Nursing Research Symposium, featuring the theme, "Nurturing Excellence Through Mentoring." In addition to showcasing the studies of nurse researchers at Montefiore, the Symposium also underscored the importance of nurses building relationships with supervisors and co-workers to help drive their professional growth.

Keynote speaker Connie Vance, EdD, RN, FAAN, a professor of nursing at New York University and former dean at The College of New Rochelle in New Rochelle, New York, discussed the value of nurturing key connections in her presentation, "Power Mentoring and Networking for Career Excellence and Success."

This year's event also explored topics including the value of understanding research statistics, coaching to build an engaged workforce, and the future of nursing in the era of global healthcare.

Twenty-nine posters were presented with winners in Research, Evidence-Based Practice and Clinical Innovation categories. The winner for Research, "The Meaning of the Intensive Care Unit Experience as Perceived by the Nurses, Patients and Family Members," was presented by Brigitte S. Cypress, EdD, RN, CCRN, Research Associate, Montefiore. The winner for Evidence-Based Practice, "Current Insights on Preventing Heel Pressure Ulcers," was authored by Hopeton Morris, BSN, RN, Staff Nurse, Montefiore, and Stacey-Ann White, BSN, RN, Staff Nurse, Montefiore. The recipient in the Clinical Innovation category, "Skills Fair as an Effective Method of Competency

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Validation and Enhancement of Nursing Knowledge," was authored by Nicole Baron, RN, MS, CPNP, Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, Montefiore; Elena Bertolino, MSN, CPNP-AC, PPCNP- BC, CCRN, WCC, former Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM); Sheila Buchanan, RN, MS, CPNP, CPHON, WCC, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Montefiore; and Linda Ziemann, MM, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing, CHAM.

"By encouraging nurse mentor relationships and incorporating the results of research into practice, we promote best practices by staff in the delivery of healthcare," says Pio Paunon, PhD, RN, FCCP, FHCQM, Chairman, Nursing Research Committee, Montefiore. "This year's event was our best attended yet, with more than 250 nurses representing their field."

EVENTS

Physician Assistants Host Esteemed Speaker Friday, October 3 | 12:30-2:00 pm Tishman Learning Center, Moses Campus

The Physician Assistants of Montefiore are honoring the American Academy of Physician Assistants' national Physician Assistant (PA) Week, October 6-12, with a special pre-week event welcoming Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C, President and CEO of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, as a guest speaker. Ms. Morton-Rias will speak about the importance of PAs in the healthcare field and their commitment to maximizing the quality of patient care. The event is open to all associates.

📍 Melanie Aure, PA-C, at 718-920-5144

In the Community

Montefiore and its health partners regularly host events throughout the year to educate, engage and inform members of the communities that it serves.

This outreach is critical. It's typically the first step toward fostering the relationships and understanding needed to improve the overall health and wellness of people who might not otherwise have immediate access to healthcare.

Doctors for a Healthier Bronx's 16th Community Walkathon and Health Fair Tuesday, October 7 | 3:00-5:00 pm PS #89 Park | 980 Mace Avenue | Bronx, New York

This event will feature healthcare information distribution, blood pressure and BMI screenings, community outreach and fun activities such as "Double-Dutch," Zumba and much more.

NEWS

Montefiore's Office of Clinical Trials Holds Trialist Program

Montefiore's Office of Clinical Trials recently presented its third annual Trialist and Investigator Training Program for principal investigators and study personnel, a dynamic, two-day program designed to demonstrate the skill set needed to plan, manage, activate and successfully conduct a clinical trial. More than 80 participants attended. "The continued over-subscription to this offering speaks to the growing interests and needs of the Montefiore and Einstein clinical research community and its growing presence in bringing clinical trials back to academia," says Barrett Katz, MD, MBA, Executive Director, Office of Clinical Trials, Montefiore, and Professor, Ophthalmology, Neurology and Neurological Surgery, Einstein. He also holds the Francis DeJur Chair in Ophthalmology at Einstein.



Montefiore New Rochelle Parking Lots Transition to New Access System

On or around the week of October 20, Montefiore New Rochelle will begin installation of a new, state-of-the-art, access system in its parking lots. To prepare for this transition, all current parkers must register to receive an access chip by Monday, October 6.

Registration forms and FAQs regarding the new installation are currently being distributed to parkers. Forms must be returned to the Security Office no later than midnight on October 6. If the office is closed, parkers should drop off their form in the lock box located across from the Emergency Department (ED) registration area. Parkers will be notified of lot assignments and be asked to pick up their access chip prior to equipment installation.

📍 Parking Hotline at 718-920-3663

Montefiore Mount Vernon Unveils New Medical-Surgical Unit

Montefiore Mount Vernon recently celebrated the opening of its new medical-surgical unit, the hospital's first new unit in 20 years, with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony. The completely renovated unit includes 28 new beds with built-in scales, flat screen televisions, new equipment, furniture, floors and fixtures in all rooms and bathrooms, a new nurses' station and a separate physician workspace.



From left, Susan Green-Lorenzen, RN, Senior Vice President, Operations, Montefiore; Ernest Davis, Mayor, Mount Vernon; Philip O. Ozuah, MD, PhD, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Montefiore; Steven M. Safyer, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Montefiore; and Jaccel Kouns, RN, Vice President and Executive Director, Montefiore Mount Vernon.

SITE TO SEE

New to Yammer? | www.yammer.com

Associates: Get hands-on information designed to help you make the most of Montefiore's enterprise social media platform through the Yammer Newbies Group. You can post questions, help out by responding to questions posted by your colleagues, watch instructional videos, download tip sheets and much more.



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