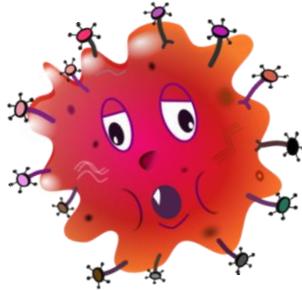


INFLUENZA PROGRAM



LAWTON INDIAN HOSPITAL
LAWTON, OKLAHOMA
2011-PRESENT

BARBARA DERRICO RN
ASSISTANT CHIEF NURSE (A)
(Past) Infection Control/Employee Health Nurse

2011 Lawton Service Unit



Concerns

Increase vaccination rates among the tribes and hospital staff.

Decrease the morbidity and mortality of our staff and patients.

MMWR Reports on H1N1 Influenza Deaths among American Indians/Alaska Natives:

American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) are at increased risk of death from 2009 H1N1 influenza.

- AI/AN were 4 times more likely to die from 2009 H1N1 influenza.
- 10% death rate occurred among AI/AN- despite 3% of the population.

The authors recommend:

- Increasing awareness among AI/AN and their healthcare providers about influenza
- Early use of influenza antiviral medications for those at increased risk for influenza complications
- Promotion of early vaccine

For more information please see the full article, [Deaths Related to 2009 Pandemic Influenza A \(H1N1\) Among American Indian/Alaska Natives--12 States, 2009](#) in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Support from State Hospital Association

- JULY 2011 – Flu Program maintained and promoted through Public Health Nursing. No data available on employee compliance.
- September 2011- Policy introduced to Leadership to make flu vaccine program compliant with Oklahoma Hospital Association standards.
- Policy approved and implemented 2011 flu season.
- November 2011 - Purchased Meditrax-Employee Health Database to track vaccination rates

In 2011, the Oklahoma Hospital Association Board developed a position statement regarding mandatory influenza policies. It states:

The OHA Board of Trustees encourages hospitals to implement a mandatory patient safety policy that addresses influenza vaccination for hospital

<http://www.okoha.com/Images/OHADocs/Patient%20Safety/toolkitFinal-July12.pdf>

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

- Do the research
- Teach the people- even the providers
- Provide hard data from a reliable source-CDC
- Provide historical data from service unit if available
- Encourage best practice
- Enforce –DO NO HARM!



Vaccinate your CEO

Vaccinate your Tribal
Board



Vaccinate your
Leadership Team

Vaccinate Everyone!

ACTION PLAN- Year 1

Educated staff during General Staff Meeting using power point and data.

Mass Emails regarding new policy, flu symptoms, etc.

Developed the IC Newsletter- one issue “Flu” only.

Organized Annual Education Event- mandatory for all staff. It included the movie “Influenza 1918” and popcorn. Flu vaccine administered at the event.

Sent individual emails to non-compliant staff. Re-educated and re-offered. Most accepted.

Kept staff updated on progress toward goal of 90%.

GOAL 2015 is 98%!!

By getting flu vaccine you can protect yourself from influenza and may also avoid spreading influenza to others...WOW!

New Flu Vaccine Policy TBA...

Influenza - AKA- FLU

Health care workers are actually responsible for carrying the disease to our patients. Some patients are unable to defend themselves against the flu.

The flu is caused by the influenza virus, which can be spread by coughing, sneezing, or nasal secretions. It is a very contagious disease.

Anyone can get influenza, but rates of infection are highest among children. For most people, symptoms last only a few days.

They include:

- fever/chills • sore throat • muscle aches • fatigue cough • head-ache • runny or stuffy nose.

All people 6 months of age and older should get flu vaccine.

Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of severe influenza and their close contacts, including healthcare personnel and close contacts of children younger than 6 months. Get the vaccine as soon as it is available!!

Influenza can occur at any time, but most influenza occurs from October through May.

Who is exempt?

People with egg allergy, allergic reactions to flu vaccine, GBS, and people who are moderately to severely ill.

MORE ACTION = MORE VACCINATIONS!!

- **Set up popcorn machine in the mall area.**

The staff and the patients smell the popcorn and come to the area. That's when/where we vaccinated staff and patients.

- **The PHN's set up every Monday evening in the Conference Center** and vaccinated staff and patients.

- **The flu cart travels throughout the facility** during flu season to vaccinate the stragglers. Staffed by nurse volunteers from the Operating Room after cases are done for the day.



MORE ACTION = MORE VACCINATIONS!!

- **The House Supervisors vaccinate staff on the night shifts.**
- **All new hires are vaccinated during orientation.**
- **The Flu Cart shows up** at Health Board Meetings/General Staff/Med Staff/Nursing Staff Meetings to vaccinate providers.
- **GOOD HEALTH TV** –runs infomercials on Flu vaccine
- **FLU COMPETITION BETWEEN THE CLINICS**-new this year!



In short, we show up where the crowds are. Peer pressure helps get the job done. It's a **team effort**! The Infection Control Nurse needs everyone's cooperation in getting the numbers to meet the goal.

REFUSALS OR CONTRAINDICATIONS FOR TAKING THE FLU VACCINE

- **Anaphylaxis**- statement from provider on letterhead
- **Religious Beliefs**- statement from clergy on letterhead
- **Refusal** – signed refusal

- The employees that refuse the vaccine or the vaccine is contraindicated will be **monitored by their supervisors.** The Infection Control Nurse performs spot checks on non-compliant staff to assure masks are being worn when working with patients.

GOALS MET!!

High rates of vaccinations

Decreased morbidity

Recognition by the Oklahoma Hospital Association 90% or better vaccinated! 3 years in a row

Increased knowledge of staff regarding myths about FLU vaccine

Celebrate your successes! Pizza party for first department vaccinated.