

Best Practices

for Increasing Influenza Vaccination Levels among Healthcare Workers

Facility: Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center (NMRMC)
629 South Plummer Avenue
Chanute, KS 66720

Type of Facility: Hospital

Methods:

- Conducted program as exercise for disaster preparedness
- Collaborative program with nursing staff from infection control, employee health, emergency room, risk management, cardiac rehab; staff from respiratory care and dietary
- Held clinics on four different days
- Dietary supplied chocolate fountain with strawberries, marshmallows, pretzels, and pineapple for dipping (created good memories by allowing them to have their chocolate before the injection for the endorphin benefit)
- Used rolling carts to deliver vaccine to those unable to attend clinics
- Employees not vaccinated were required to sign declination forms
- Expanded program to include employees' families when vaccine supply exceeded employee target
- Employer covers costs of program
- Respiratory care staff completed required TB mask fit tests on OSHA category I and II employees

Results:

- Vaccination rate in 2007-08 season: 87% (265 of 304 eligible employees)
- Absenteeism during height of influenza season peaked among employees at a low 4%!

Tools:

- Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccine to Employees/Volunteers of NMRMC
- Declination of Influenza Vaccination form

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