

## **Influenza Vaccination for Medical Students Drexel University College of Medicine**

### **DUCOM Influenza Vaccination Policy**

**All medical students are required to be vaccinated yearly with the seasonal influenza vaccine.** Documentation of vaccination must be submitted to the Office of Immunization and Surveillance by **October 15, 2011** (Some clinical sites may have an earlier deadline). Failure to complete this requirement will result in the suspension of any clinical activities (i.e. Year 1/2 clinical skills hospital sessions or Year 3/4 clinical rotations) and may result in a Citation for Unprofessional Behavior.

If there is a medical contraindication to influenza vaccination, documentation including the specific contraindication to vaccination is required from the student's health care provider to the Office of Immunization and Surveillance.

### **Vaccination Options:**

- a. **DUCOM Vaccination Clinic:** DUCOM will be offering **one** seasonal influenza vaccination clinic for medical students this year at the Queen Lane Campus. Medical students will be offered vaccination at this clinic free of charge.  
**Queen Lane Campus Vaccination Clinic for Medical Students:  
Friday September 23, 2011, 8:00am - 2:00pm  
Room 104 (Student Lounge)**
  - a) All 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students can obtain vaccination at this clinic.
  - b) All 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who plan to receive vaccination during this clinic and are scheduled for a shelf exam that day should plan to arrive for vaccination no later than one hour prior to the start of the shelf exam.
  - c) The Directors of Medical Education at each of our clinical sites are aware of this vaccination clinic. 4th year students can ask to be released from clinical duties for the time needed to travel to Queen Lane.
- b. Some of our clinical affiliates will also offer seasonal flu vaccine to students who are rotating at their sites, though this may be associated with a charge. You should check with the individual site where you are rotating.
- c. Alternatively, you can be vaccinated through your own health care provider or through a local pharmacy. Most insurance companies, including our student Aetna plan, cover the cost of vaccination, though you may have a co-pay.
- d. **Regardless of where you obtain your seasonal influenza vaccination, you must get documentation of vaccination. You must also submit a copy of this documentation to the Immunization and Surveillance Office at Queen Lane.** (If you are vaccinated at a DUCOM vaccination clinic, documentation will be submitted to the Immunization and Surveillance Office by the administrators at the vaccination clinic). Please keep your copy and be prepared to take it with you on all rotations as you will be asked for documentation of vaccination on the first day of your rotation at those sites that require vaccination.

***Regardless of which vaccination option you utilize, it is your responsibility to get your influenza vaccination by October 15, 2011.***

### **General Recommendations during Influenza Season (as established by the CDC)**

#### **1. Stay home if you have an influenza-like illness (ILI)**

Definition Influenza-like illness: Fever (100 °F or greater) and a cough or sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.

2. If you become ill during the day with an ILI, you should go home promptly
3. If you are ill with an influenza-like illness, you should self-isolate from others in your apartment or home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to get medical care or other necessities.
4. Hand hygiene: Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
5. Respiratory Etiquette: Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash after use.
6. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

### **Action plan for a student who is sick with influenza-like illness:**

1. Students who develop an influenza-like illness and need to be excused from a clinical rotation or a required 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year educational activity should contact the Office of Student Affairs and speak with Dr. Fuchs, Dr. Rodriguez or Dr. Parrish directly (215-991-8221 during the day or via the Student Affairs Emergency Hotline after hours at 215-991-8184).
2. Students on clinical rotation must also inform the clerkship director and site director or 4<sup>th</sup> year course director and all other appropriate individuals responsible for his/her education on that clinical rotation, e.g. resident, intern, attending.
3. Going to a patient-care rotation with symptoms of influenza-like illness is considered unprofessional – you are putting patients at risk.
4. If you are unsure of whether or not you have an influenza-like illness and need to miss school, you should make the call to Student Affairs so that we can assist you in making this determination.
5. In addition, you may want to seek assistance from your medical provider. If you have severe illness or are in a group at high risk for complications (pregnancy, immunosuppression, or chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, hematological, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders) you *should* contact your medical provider or seek medical care.
6. When to return to school: You should stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.
7. Determine required make-up: See student handbook. Students are required to contact course, clerkship and site directors to determine how required coursework or missed time will be made up.

**If you have questions, call the Student Affairs Office at 215-991-8221 or  
after hours on the Student Affairs Hotline at 215-991-8487.**