

## ***NYS Public Health Law: Get Flu Vaccine or Wear Surgical Mask During Flu Season***

New York State public health law has mandated that health care personnel (including but not limited to all NYHQ employees, voluntary and attending medical staff, nursing staff, contract staff, students and volunteers) who do not receive the flu vaccine must wear surgical masks in areas of the facility where patients may be present (on campus and off-site) during the flu season.

This law will help reduce the risk of spreading influenza to patients, visitors, colleagues and our own family members. The hospital has created a policy to enforce the new legislation:

### ***Getting Vaccinated:***

- All health care personnel should receive the influenza vaccine provided by NYHQ or provide written proof of receipt of required influenza vaccine from a private provider
- Documentation of the vaccination administered by a private provider must include the name and address of the provider and the date of vaccination
- Employee Health Services administers free flu shots to employees and medical staff outside of the cafeteria and at the Employee Health Services office during business hours
- An individual who receives the vaccine will be given a sticker for his/her ID badge
- The deadline for getting vaccinated, or to sign a declination form, is November 1

### ***Medical exemptions:***

- Severe allergic reaction after a previous dose, or to a vaccine component (e.g. eggs)
- History of Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Current moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever (until symptoms subside)
- If exempt, a medical exemption form must be submitted to your supervisor
- Print the form: <http://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-4482.pdf>

### ***Personnel who are not vaccinated (including those medically exempt):***

- Must wear surgical or procedure masks (provided by NYHQ free of charge) during flu season (time frame to be determined by the NYS Commissioner of Health)
- Must wear surgical or procedure masks where patients may be present, including but not limited to outpatient clinics, patient rooms, nurses' stations, lobbies, waiting areas, hallways, elevators and the cafeteria
- Should change mask after leaving a patient room and/or whenever mask is soiled

### ***Compliance***

- Employee Health Services will document salaried personnel who received the influenza vaccine and who are required to wear a surgical or procedure mask during the influenza season
- Each department is responsible for tracking documentation and enforcing compliance of non-salaried personnel

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Employee Health Services at 718-670-1280 or the Infection Preventionists at 718-670-1256.