

SUBJECT: EMPLOYEE : **FLU VACCINE**

POLICY: LMC Employee influenza vaccination program

The Infection Control Committee recognizes that not only patient safety but ensuring a safe environment for patients and the staff caring for them, is a top priority at LMC. We recognize that “the flu” is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccination each year.

Nosocomial transmission of influenza with serious complications is a major risk to our patient population. Those patients include neonates, pediatrics, the elderly, and people with certain health conditions such as CHF, asthma, or diabetes.

Starting in the 2007-2008 influenza season, the influenza vaccine will be **required** as a condition of employment for all LMC employees unless contraindicated by a physician in writing. The contradictions to vaccination (as listed below) must be in writing Link: [Employee Health, Influenza vaccination contraindication form](#), signed by a physician, and will be kept in the employee’s health file. Note: If you have received another type of vaccine within the past 14 days, consult your physician prior to vaccination.

The influenza vaccine is not a live vaccine and is safe.

The flu vaccine shall be available during the months of October through the flu season as long as vaccine supply lasts. This will be free of charge to all hospital employees, physicians, students, and volunteers.

AFFECTED PARTIES: All Departments

PROCEDURE:

I. INDICATIONS:

All hospital and health service personnel.

II. CONTRAINDICATIONS:

A. Allergies to eggs, chickens, or chicken feathers.

B. Sensitivity/allergy to Gentamicin or other Aminoglycosides.

- C. Known convulsive disorders.
- D. *History of Guillain- Barre syndrome within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccination previously.

*Ref: www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm

PLEASE NOTE: If you have one of the above conditions and want to be vaccinated, please bring written permission from your physician stating you can have the vaccine.

III. ADVERSE REACTIONS:

- A. Fever, malaise, myalgia may occur 6 to 12 hours after vaccination persisting 1 to 2 days.
- B. Immediate, presumably allergic responses as wheal or various respiratory problems are expressions of hypersensitivity.
- C. Epinephrine shall be available and ready for immediate use when the above vaccine is administered.

IV. AUTHORIZATION TO GIVE EPINEPHRINE:

A. CRITERIA FOR GIVING:

- 1. Severe respiratory problems
- 2. Systemic reactions
- 3. Anaphylactic reactions
- 4. Angio-Neurotic Edema (swelling of throat)
- 5. Acute asthmatic reactions
- 6. Hives

B. DOSAGE: Epinephrine 1:1,000 give 0.4 cc sub q

C. WHO CAN GIVE IT: The nurse giving flu shots to employees.

APPROVALS:

	9/07
Infection Control/Coordinator	Date
Revised	05/07