

# HEALTH MESSAGE

## Time to Begin Vaccinating Staff for Influenza Season; New Surveillance Report Coming Soon

October 8, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

The Kitsap Public Health District has begun receiving reports of multiple positive influenza tests from some healthcare facilities. This provides an excellent reminder that we are about to enter into influenza season, so now is the time for all of us to receive our influenza vaccinations.

As you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recommend that all U.S. healthcare workers get vaccinated annually against influenza. Healthcare workers can get influenza from patients, coworkers, family members, and others in the community, and they can spread it even before they feel sick. At the Kitsap Public Health District, we have begun to offer influenza vaccinations to our staff and we recommend that all healthcare providers do the same.

Of note, the Kitsap Public Health District will provide a new weekly report during this influenza season 2015-16, in which we will report the level of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity in Kitsap County, as well as influenza-like illness (ILI) visits at local sentinel providers and at emergency rooms. We will be distributing the report via email and it will be available on our website. More information on this report will be forthcoming.

Thank you for the hard work you do to improve the health of our community!

Sincerely,

Susan Turner MD, MPH, MS, Health Officer  
Health Officer  
Kitsap Public Health District