

Flu Shot Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – Fall 2014

1. Who is eligible for the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP) flu clinics?

Members and spouses under age 65 who are covered under the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP).

2. Why are you limiting shots to those under age 65?

It is our understanding that a different flu shot is recommended for individuals over age 65. We will only be offering the product recommended for those under age 65. Those over age 65 will need to check with their health care provider regarding obtaining the recommended flu shot. If they and their health care provider are comfortable with the individual receiving the regular vaccine, they may get their flu shot at the onsite clinic.

3. Are children eligible to get their flu shots at the SEHP clinic?

No. The clinics are for members and covered spouses only. Check with your physician or health plan for assistance in finding flu shots for children.

4. Why are flu shots not being given at [building or location goes here]?

We are not able to offer shots at every location where state employees are located. Those members who are at a location where flu shot clinics are not offered have coverage under the SEHP for a flu shot as long as you use a network provider for your health plan. We have attached our health plans' information on where shots are covered. Please feel free to call the health plan customer service if you have questions about whether or not a provider is eligible under your health plan.

5. Do I have to pre-register?

Preregistration is recommended. Flu shots will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis and our vendor needs to be able to estimate the amount of vaccine to bring to each location.

6. If I am a state employee but not covered by the SEHP, can I get a flu shot and pay at the flu clinic?

No. Only covered SEHP members may use the flu clinic. The vendor will not be set up to receive payments from non members.

7. What do I need to bring to the flu clinic?

All members will need to bring their Caremark ID card to be eligible for a flu shot. You may also want to bring a pen, as you will need to complete a consent form at the event.

8. Will the vaccine contain live virus?

No, the vaccine contains only deactivated virus cells, no live virus.

9. Are retirees (enrolled in the SEHP) and covered spouses also eligible for Flu Shots?

Flu shot clinics are for active employees and their covered spouses. However, early Retirees who are enrolled in SEHP Plans A, B or C are welcome to participate in the flu shot clinics. Medicare eligible Retirees can get a flu shot from their physician's office or other provider of their health plan as it is covered in full by Medicare.

10. What strains are covered by the 2013-2014 flu vaccine?

Flu vaccines are designed to protect against three influenza viruses that experts predict will be the most common during the upcoming season. Three kinds of influenza viruses commonly circulate among people today: Influenza A (H1N1) viruses, influenza A (H3N2) viruses, and influenza B viruses. Each year, one flu virus of each kind is used to produce seasonal influenza vaccine.

The 2014-2015 trivalent influenza vaccine is made from the following three viruses:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A(H3N2) virus antigenically like the cell-propagated prototype virus A/Victoria/361/2011;
- a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus.

Mary Spinks
SEHP
785-296-5892
mspinks@kdheks.gov