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NEWS RELEASE

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“Shoo-Flu”, say goodbye to the Flu

EUGENE, ORE. – As the University of Oregon kicks off the new school year, the UO University Health Center launches the “Shoo, Flu” campaign to encourage students to get the flu vaccine. Starting from Oct. 1 to Nov. 28, 2024, the University of Oregon will be offering mobile clinics around campus for students, faculty and staff to receive the flu shot on a walk-in basis. Every year, many students and faculty contract the flu virus which results in long absences and poor health – the main reason to prevent the virus now.

Influenza hospitalizes more than 200,000 people in the U.S. every year and kills up to 49,000 people each year. Getting the vaccine is imperative to prevent this illness from spreading in our community. This disease is highly transmissible and can result in severe consequences if the proper preventative measures are not taken.

The University Health Center estimates that there were 6,500 flu-related student absences in UO classes and 3,200 flu-related faculty absences during the 2023 fall term. To prevent the same impact this year, the health center is promoting the flu vaccine to its UO community to avoid the same repercussions as last year.

The University Health Center Director, Quincy Hawkins said, “The flu shot positively impacts the health of our UO students, faculty, and staff. In terms of attendance and well-being, getting the flu shot prevents our community from contracting the disease and allows them to stay present throughout the winter term. Staying in good health is our top priority for our UO community, which is why we are making the flu shot easily accessible.”

The health center’s goal is to have 85% of students receive the flu vaccine. This year, it's offering incentives to students who get their flu shots on campus. Students have the chance to receive coupons to the food courts in the Erb Memorial Union, reusable water bottles, “Shoo-Flu” T-shirts and “No Flu Here” buttons. Additionally, the first 50 students to receive the vaccine will be entered in a drawing for five Apple iPad Pros.

“The incentives to receive the flu shot is like the icing on the cake, it pulls you in but isn’t necessarily why I wanted to get the vaccine,” said UO student, Luke Brownfield. “I got the flu shot because I wanted to stay present in my classes. I highly value my education and my health, so I took the opportunity to prevent the flu because it is an important thing to do.”

The University of Oregon strives for excellence in developing the next generation of transformational leaders. This public university is committed to prioritizing the health and well-being of its students in the upcoming flu season, while simultaneously enhancing their education. UO focuses on fostering a diverse, equal and inclusive environment for everyone to be welcomed and supported in this community.

For more information about the flu, please visit www.cdc.gov/flu.