



MUSC Medical Center Employee Update for 2009/2010 Influenza Season 10/2/09

During the flu season, MUSC typically experiences an increase in flu related absences by employees. As in the past, we encourage employees to take steps to prevent infection by using proper hygiene (hand washing, sneezing and coughing protocols), utilizing personal protective equipment and getting the seasonal flu vaccine. (Additional information will be forthcoming regarding the H1N1 vaccine.)

Employees with flu type symptoms should not report to work. Likewise, managers should instruct employees to stay home when experiencing flu-like symptoms. Employees who become sick while at work should leave as soon as possible. Employees may be required to leave if they report to work with flu symptoms. Employees refusing to comply with this request may be required to submit to a fitness for duty assessment.

MUSC follows the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines in regards to returning to work. The CDC recommends for health care settings 7 days from symptom onset or until resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. Employees may utilize accrued time off in accordance with the Human Resources Paid Time Off policy.

Employees may seek care from the Rapid Access Center, Family Medicine or their personal physician if they are in need of medical attention. As a healthcare provider we must take extra precautions to avoid the spreading of viruses.

See links below for additional information.

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/exclusion.htm>