

Date: November 24, 2020

From: Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health

Subj: VHA Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program for VHA Health Care Personnel – November 30, 2020 Deadline

To: Network Directors (10N1-23), Medical Center Directors, Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nurse Executives

1. As we approach the peak months of the 2020-21 influenza “flu” season, I thank those of you who have taken the important preventive step of having received your flu vaccinations. For those whom have not received the vaccine, I once again remind you of our updated directive requiring VHA health care personnel (HCP) to get flu vaccinations. Vaccination of both Veterans and HCP is the cornerstone of our efforts to prevent influenza virus transmission and contributes to maintaining a healthy environment to care for patients and a safer workplace for all employees. This is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic as we face increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases which are straining our health care resources.

2. On August 10, 2020, [Directive 1192.01](#) was issued outlining requirements for health care personnel to get flu shots or to obtain an exemption for medical or religious reasons by November 30, 2020. Compliance with this directive is a condition of employment. HCP vaccinated outside of a VA facility are required to submit VA Form 10-9050 to their Employee Occupational Health office, along with documentation verifying vaccination. As of November 15, approximately 69 percent of these employees have been vaccinated.

3. I am asking all VA facilities to push out messages via staff meetings, facility electronic newsletters, digital signage and other venues to inform health care staff, once again, about this requirement. I also encourage you to utilize screen savers on employee desktops to remind employees of the flu shot requirement and how to get them at the facility.

4. Please direct questions pertaining to Directive 1192.01 to VHAEOHProgram@va.gov. Questions related to communication methods can be directed to Michelle Spivak, VHA Office of Communications, at michelle.spivakmelinger@va.gov. Thank you for your attention to this important health prevention matter.



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