

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sherwood Park Manor's staff exceed health care immunization rates

A major milestone has been reached at Sherwood Park Manor (SPM) in Brockville. Current staff rates of influenza immunization in Canadian health care organizations range from 40 – 60%. The staff of SPM have obliterated that this year with an astounding 97% of staff receiving the flu shot.

Believing that all staff in health care facilities should receive their flu shot, a campaign was initiated to improve the vaccination rate of staff. An announcement was made that if 95% of staff received their flu shots by Dec. 7, a raffle would be made available and all staff who had their flu shot would be entered into the draw. Within one week the target was reached.

The World Health Organization and the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends 90% of health care workers be immunized to help reduce the number of people suffering complications and dying from Influenza.

"We encourage health care workers to get immunized;" says Margaret Hendriks, Manager with the Community Health Protection Department at the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, "it is the best and easiest way to prevent the spread of influenza in our community."

Staff, residents and their families as well as the community should be applauding this success; why?

- Staff at SPM can take comfort in knowing they are protecting the residents they work with every day. They have also hugely reduced the risk for themselves and their family members of becoming ill.
- Residents of SPM and their families now know that staff have demonstrated a strong commitment to doing what they can to protect residents from the flu.
- Families and visitors can anticipate a reinforced position by the Home that if they have not had their flu shot they will be advised not to put residents at risk by visiting during an active flu period.
- The community also benefits from the knowledge that SPM is setting a standard, hopefully to be followed by other health care facilities.

For more information about how you can get your flu shot, see your health care provider or contact the Health Unit at 1-800-660-5853 or visit www.healthunit.org.

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Contact:

Dave Hunter, Interim Administrator, Sherwood Park Manor, 613-342-5531
or Susan Healey, Communications Co-ordinator, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, 613-345-5685 or 613-802-0550

PHOTO CAPTION: A group of staff from Sherwood Park Manor gathered today to celebrate the success of having 97% of staff immunized against influenza. (photo credit: Susan Healey)