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North Cumbria hospitals first in region to reach staff flu target

Posted on Wednesday 15th November 2017

North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust has reached its target of vaccinating 75 percent of frontline healthcare workers to protect patients, staff and visitors from the flu virus.

The free staff flu jab is part of a national 'Flu Fighters' campaign, which was launched at the end of September 2017. It encourages all NHS staff to receive a free flu jab to reduce the chance of spreading the virus to the patients they care for at a time where people are most vulnerable from catching it.

The Trust is the first in the North East and Cumbria to reach the 75 percent target and means it has achieved a Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) target and will receive £127,000 in funding.

The Trust's Occupational Health staff have been working day and night, holding drop-in clinics and visiting wards to vaccinate staff to reach the target. Staff have also been very forthcoming about having their vaccine as they know the benefits it brings and protection it offers to themselves and their patients.

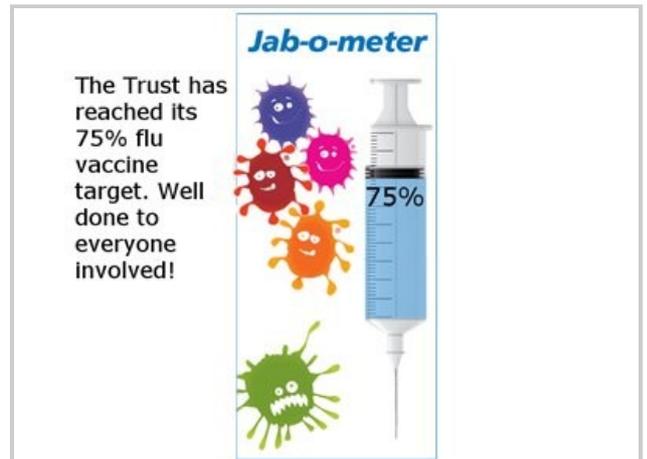
The total number of staff vaccinated currently stands at 75.3 percent which is a total of 2,516 vaccinations administered to frontline workers.

The Trust has also teamed up with Unicef who will provide 10 tetanus jabs for children in the developing world for every flu jab given. That's 25,160 potentially lifesaving vaccines for children.

Stephen Eames, chief executive, said: "This is a fantastic achievement and I know how hard the Occupational Health teams have been working to ensure as many staff as possible are protected from the flu virus. Everyone who has received their jab this year has made a difference in ensuring the virus is kept to an absolute minimum within our hospitals.

"I'd like to thank all staff who have received their jab and helped us achieve this target. Staff having the jab is fundamentally important, given the nature of their work and the amount of people they come into contact with, flu can be a very serious illness and it's important these steps are taken to keep our staff and patients safe.

"Although we have reached our desired target, we will be working throughout November and December to increase uptake even further."



Jab-o-meter

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