

Opal Aged Care Influenza Vaccination Program

Dear Member,

Your employer Opal has notified the HSU of their 2018 National Staff Influenza Vaccination Program (see attached).

The HSU understands that members may have a range of views, questions or concerns.

Please email agedcare@hsu.asn.au if you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD



23 May 2018

Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union NSW Branch
Sydney NSW 2000

Email: Gerard.Hayes@hsu.asn.au

Dear Gerard,

RE: 2018 National Staff Influenza Vaccination program

We are writing to inform you about Opal's National Staff Influenza Vaccination program for 2018.

Minister Wyatt recently announced that the government will mandate flu vaccines for aged care workers following a survey showing the significant link between increased staff vaccination and lower aged care influenza outbreaks.

Minister Wyatt confirmed that "Vaccination is imperative for staff and residents in aged care, where the flu can spread quickly and have devastating consequences". Therefore, in an effort to reduce the risk of an Influenza outbreak in one of our homes and the impact this could have on Resident and Staff health and safety, Opal will be running a flu vaccination program in 2018 and will be requesting that all staff participate in the program.

Opal has commenced communications with staff during the month of May about the flu vaccination program. Opal will be making arrangements to vaccinate staff during work hours. If staff are unable to attend an Opal vaccination session, they will be asked to visit their doctor or chemist by June 2018 to get their vaccination. Opal will cover the cost of the vaccinations conducted in the Opal onsite sessions only. Staff will also be asked to confirm that they have received the flu vaccination and will also be asked to inform their manager if for some reason they are not able to receive the vaccination.

Please note in cases where a home is deemed to be in an influenza outbreak we will work one on one with those staff who were not able to get the flu vaccination to determine measures that can be put in place to protect the health of our staff and residents, one example may be for the staff member to take Tamiflu during the outbreak.

To ensure our flu vaccination program is successful we will be:

- Communicating with staff about flu vaccinations and where they can get their flu vaccination
- Communicating with staff who they can contact if they have any concerns or questions around getting the flu vaccination.

We ask that if you do wish to discuss this matter further you contact the undersigned in the first instance on 0408 278 245.

Yours sincerely,

Neal Hunter
State HR Manager NSW
Opal Aged Care