



September 12, 2022

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 22-02
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS
ALL CENTER USERS

FROM: RACHEL TORRES
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Influenza (Flu) Guidance for the 2022-2023 Season

1. **Purpose.** This Information Notice is to inform Job Corps community of the upcoming availability of Abbot ID NOW flu test kits so that centers can perform point-of-care (POC) diagnostic testing for two strains of the flu (A and B). It also provides flu prevention, testing, and treatment guidelines, based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) most recent recommendations.¹
2. **Background.** Flu has the potential to cause significant illness, increased health care utilization, hospitalization, and death, and can be widely spread through coughing, sneezing, and close contact. Flu presents with symptoms similar to those of other respiratory infections, such as COVID-19 and common colds. Symptoms of flu are likely to appear suddenly and may include high fever, chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, and runny or stuffy nose. See *Similarities and Differences Between Flu and COVID-19* at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm> for more information. People can spread flu one day before symptoms appear and up to seven days after onset of the illness.²

The timing and intensity of the upcoming 2022-2023 flu season is difficult to predict due to decreased flu activity since March 2020. Flu vaccination is an important tool for the prevention of severe flu illness and death and may decrease stress on the U.S. health care system during ongoing

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2022). Influenza (Flu) Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/Flu/Index.htm>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2022). How Flu Spreads. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/spread.htm>

circulation of COVID-19. Flu vaccines are designed to protect against the flu viruses that are predicted to be circulating during the upcoming season.³ It is especially important that people with certain health conditions and health care workers receive a flu vaccine annually. See *People at Higher Risk of Flu Complications* at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/index.htm> for more information. Information for healthcare professional is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/flushot.htm>.

Several Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved vaccine options are available to address student preference, history of allergic reaction, and medical contraindications.

3. Action.

- a. Centers should offer flu vaccinations to students, in line with the following guidance:
 1. Centers may work with community partners (e.g., health departments, pharmacies) to access flu vaccines.
 2. Centers may directly order the 2022-2023 flu vaccines from vaccine distributors. Centers should place orders as soon as possible to ensure timely delivery.
 3. Centers are permitted to allow vaccine administration on center (e.g., in Health and Wellness or alternate locations on center) or off center (e.g., vaccination clinics or pharmacies).
 4. Vaccination should ideally be given prior to the end of October 2022. However, administration of the flu vaccine should continue until March 2023 for students who change their mind or newly arrive to center. Virtually enrolled students should be educated and encouraged to receive flu vaccine in their community.
 5. Center health staff may access state immunization registries to confirm flu immunization and to record immunizations administered on center.
 6. Flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time by an authorized healthcare provider.
 7. Centers must provide the *Influenza Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)* when administering vaccine to students. Influenza VISs are no longer updated every year. The edition dated 8/15/19 should be used for the current flu season.
 8. Health staff must review vaccination options, side effects, and contraindications prior to administering vaccines at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/flushot.htm>.
 9. If a student develops potential side effects with a flu vaccine in the 24-48 hours after the flu vaccine, the student should be instructed to contact the Health and Wellness Center and remain in their room. If the symptoms improve after 48 hours, no further action is required. If symptoms continue beyond 48 hours or include symptoms not listed, the student should be instructed to contact the Health and Wellness Center for evaluation by a clinician.
- b. Centers should employ measures to encourage students to receive the flu vaccine, including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. Consider administering flu vaccine to students in alternate locations, such as the cafeteria during lunch break or in the dormitories after hours, to decrease barriers for

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2022). Influenza Activity and Composition of the 2022–23 Influenza Vaccine — United States, 2021–22 Season. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7129a1.htm>

- vaccination.
2. Use trusted sources of information (e.g., health providers, members of the Student Government Association, health occupation students) to promote flu vaccination.
- c. Centers must provide treatment and infection control when a student presents with flu- or COVID-19-like symptoms, including:
1. Instruct students to contact the Health and Wellness Center if they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or flu. Appropriate Health and Wellness Staff must evaluate the student.
 2. Prior to testing for flu, test the student for COVID-19 per CDC guidelines: [Testing Guidance for Clinicians When SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza Viruses are Co-circulating \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s110520-covid-19-flu-testing.html). If the COVID-19 test is positive, follow isolation procedures outlined in [PI 21-12 Consolidation of Job Corps' COVID-19 Policies and Alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHE\)](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s110520-covid-19-flu-testing.html).
 3. Clinicians may decide whether additional flu testing is warranted based on:
 - i. Individual student's symptoms (see <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/coldflu.htm>) and impact on individual risk management
 - ii. Flu activity on campus and if testing influences infection control decisions
 4. Clinicians should assess student for indication of antiviral treatment based on <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm>.
 5. Instruct the student with flu-like symptoms to employ infection-control procedures including:
 - i. Stay in their dormitory room (if residential) or home (if nonresidential) and not return to class until their fever has resolved for 24 hours without treatment and symptoms have improved, at least 4-5 days after symptoms began.⁴
 - ii. Not use public transportation.
- d. Flu testing supplies are available to Job Corps centers as outlined below:
1. The National Office will ship, via its support contractor MCI, Abbott ID Now Flu test kits to each center to perform point-of-care (POC) diagnostic testing for flu A and B. Centers may use Job Corps provided Abbott ID Now flu test kits or local community resources to test for flu. Once the kits issued by MCI are depleted, centers should use community recourses for additional tests if needed.
 2. Visit MCI's website at www.mcidiagnostics.com for Abbott ID Now testing guidance. For questions related to flu testing procedures, contact MCI's Customer Service Team at (888) 509-5227. Job Corps centers are not required to report Abbott ID Now flu test results to MCI Diagnostics.
 3. Centers must report their flu test inventory weekly on the JCDC "Combined Data Collection for Vaccination Status, Testing Supplies Inventory and Donation Survey." Centers must check expiration dates on their Abbott ID Now flu test inventory and discard any expired tests.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2022). Stay Home When You're Sick. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/business/stay-home-when-sick.htm>

- e. Job Corps centers should plan for flu outbreaks and respond appropriately by:
 - 1. Reviewing their Pandemic Plans to prepare for potential flu outbreaks on center.
 - 2. Complete SIRs only if 10 percent or greater of the center's on-board strength has flu-like symptoms within a 7-day timeframe.
- f. Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

3. Resources. For the most current information on flu, visit the following CDC websites:

- a. Seasonal Flu Vaccines
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/flushot.htm>
- b. Influenza Vaccination: A Summary for Clinicians
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vax-summary.htm>
- c. Free flu educational resources to download
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/index.htm>
- d. Updated influenza Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) dated 8/6/2021
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html>
- e. Misconceptions about Seasonal Flu and Flu Vaccines
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/misconceptions.htm>

5. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to center Health and Wellness staff, Humanitas Regional Nurse Specialists, Shannon Bentley at (606) 424-3500 or Bentley.Shannon@jobcorps.org and Melissa Cusey at (616) 540-0299 or Cusey.Melissa@jobcorps.org, or Lesley Nesmith of the National Office of Job Corps at Nesmith.Lesley@dol.gov.