



November 16, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

With the threat of seasonal flu looming, we encourage all SEIU members—especially those working in higher risk environments, such as healthcare or childcare—to get your flu vaccine. This is an important step to protect you, your co-workers, patients, families and the community at large from becoming ill.

Influenza kills thousands of people every year and countless more miss work and school due to the illness.


We urge SEIU locals to partner with management to promote positive voluntary vaccination efforts based on comprehensive educational programs and by making flu vaccinations free and easily accessible. Such programs have proven to be highly successful in significantly increasing vaccination rates.

Getting the vaccine is just one part of a comprehensive program to prevent the spread of influenza. Some of the components of the CDC's recommendations for comprehensive infection control are basic, such as: proper hand-washing; using the inside of your arm to cover a cough or sneeze; staying home when you're sick; and making effective personal protective equipment available for healthcare workers caring for infected individuals.

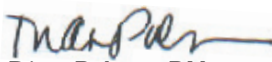
Some hospital employers are trying to impose mandatory flu vaccination programs, which we oppose as being both punitive and unnecessary based on the available evidence.

For help in establishing a successful workplace-based flu vaccination program, including arranging flu prevention workshops, go to www.seiu.org/flu for fact sheets and other resources, or contact Bill Borwegen at bill.borwegen@seiu.org or 202-730-7385. For more useful downloadable materials, visit the CDC flu website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

In Unity,


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