“Know Your Medicine, Know Your Pharmacists”

Student pharmacists help immunize community

More than 2,500 area residents have received influenza immunizations this fall from Idaho State University College of Pharmacy students through the College’s Operation Immunization program. Student pharmacists, under the supervision of a faculty member or licensed pharmacist, have provided the vaccinations at local pharmacies, health clinics, influenza awareness fairs and company health awareness programs.

During the months of October and November, students assist in the administration of the vaccine at clinics held at locations such as the Pocatello Senior Citizens’ Center, Portneuf Medical Center, Fred Meyer Pharmacy and more.

More than 100 vaccinations were administered to members of the University community during an October 24 campus-wide immunization clinic held at the Earl R. Pond Student Union. An additional 56 flu shots were given that evening to community members, free-of-charge, during a College of Pharmacy open house. The annual event is held in conjunction with the American Pharmacists Association’s American Pharmacist Month activities. The complimentary vaccinations and other month-long events are provided through a donation from Sav-On Pharmacy.

According to Suzanne Tegland, Operation Immunization student coordinator, the number of immunizations administered so far this season has increased by more than 100 from those given in 2007. Students plan to administer more immunizations next week in the Burley area.

“Each year, our students reach out to more members of the Southeastern Idaho community to educate, and vaccinate against the influenza virus,” said Pharmacy Dean Joseph Steiner. “The Operation Immunization program is a great example of how the College is helping to meet the health care needs of Idaho citizens, while providing an excellent health science education.”

Influenza is a contagious virus that causes respiratory symptoms like sore throat, coughing, and sneezing and runny nose. It may also be accompanied by a high fever, headache and muscle aches. Nausea and vomiting occur more commonly in children than adults. At particular risk are healthy adults who can catch the disease and start spreading it, even one day prior to symptoms developing, and for up to five days after. This means that you could be spreading the flu without feeling sick.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, people at high risk for flu complications are highly encouraged to be vaccinated—these include children from six-months-old up to their fifth birthday, pregnant women, anyone over 55 and people of any age who have chronic health conditions such as diabetes, congestive heart failure or asthma. In addition, people who live with or care for those who are at high-risk should get the vaccination. This includes health care workers and family and daycare personnel who are around children less than six-months-old (too young to be immunized). However, even those who don’t fall under any of these categories should consider getting the flu shot to prevent spreading or catching the disease, either at home or at work.
Alumni News Briefs...

Grads return to campus to teach classes and visit alma mater

It’s not uncommon for College of Pharmacy alumni and friends to drop by Leonard Hall when they are in the area visiting family or vacationing. We welcome, and are glad to see graduates return to campus and see the happenings at the College. Recently, Gary Kikawa, ’44, of Monterey Park, Calif., paid a visit to his alma mater.

In October, alumnus Adrian Wong, ’75, of San Francisco joined students and faculty in the classroom as the Fall 2008 Executive-in-Residence. Wong, who serves as the director of pharmacy services for the Chinese Community Health Plan, oversees the administration of Medicare Part D and commercial prescription drug benefits for the company. He also is a consultant with Relay Health, McKesson Access Healthcare.

In other alumni news, Dan Dean, director of development, will be visiting several alumni of the College this fall in various cities across the U.S.

Pharmacy alumnus Adrian Wong, ’75, was the 2008 Fall Executive-in-Residence in October. Wong discussed medication management therapy and other current issues in the pharmacy profession with students.

Dan says that meeting Pharmacy alumni is one of the highlights of his duties at the College and he recently returned from a trip to the Pacific Northwest. To schedule an appointment with Dan while he’s in a city near you, contact him at dandean@pharmacy.isu.edu or 208-282-3655.

Upcoming alumni visits include:
Orlando, Florida & South Carolina - Dec. 16.

Alumni & Friends - Take time to Join Us!

ISU & College of Pharmacy events:

- Rocky Mountain States Reception, ASHP meeting, Orlando, FL, December 8, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel. Alumni and friends are invited to join Dean Joe Steiner and other ISU College of Pharmacy faculty for this joint reception with other area universities.

- California Connection Pharmacy Alumni Dinner, January 16, 2009, Hyatt Regency Capitol View Room, Sacramento, Calif., 6:30 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. dinner.

For more information regarding pharmacy events, contact Andrew at 282-3393 or andrew@pharmacy.isu.edu