

1950s' flu strain may return; affects people under 35

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

People under the age of 35 may be more susceptible to a particular influenza virus that is expected to appear in the Eugene area in January or February.

Dr. James Jackson, director of the University Student Health Center, said the same strain of flu was around in the early

1950s. As a result, people over the age of 35 already may have come in contact with it and built up antibodies against the virus, he said.

This particular strain of flu is known as A/Taiwan, Jackson said.

Generally people who get the virus will be ill for several days; after the illness, however, antibodies will have formed in

their bodies and will protect them against the disease for the next 40 or 50 years, Jackson said.

"When they are 70 or 80 years old, and the flu comes around again, they will be protected," he said.

Students probably do not need flu shots unless they fall into a high-risk group, Jackson said. High-risk groups include people who have a serious disease such as diabetes, people who have significant problems with recurring pneumonias and people who have heart or kidney disease, he said.

Flus are more of a risk to people with these illnesses because their immune systems are already weakened, and they are not able to handle infections as well as other people can, he added.

There are two vaccines available, Jackson said. One is the A/Taiwan vaccine and is recommended for people under 35. The second, known as a trivalent vaccine, is composed of three strains of flu that protects people against other types of flu virus and is recommended for all ages.

"There has been a sort of special alert put out for adults under the age of 35, that if they fall under the category of high risk they should receive this



Photo by Michael Wilhelm

John Gyanti, a sophomore business major, receives his flu vaccine from Ellen Hansen, nursing director at the Student Health Center.

(the A/Taiwan) vaccine," Jackson said. "If one does want to receive protection against the flu, then both vaccinations are recommended.

"For the average student there is not a real good medical indication why they need to receive flu injections," he said.

"The problem is that once the flu season has hit, and everyone is coming down with the flu, it is really too late to get the vaccinations," Jackson said.

Because the incubation period for the virus is as short as one day, the campus could be

healthy one week, and half the campus could be sick the next week, if people are susceptible, Jackson said.

"Whether it is going to be a bad flu season or not, we simply cannot predict yet," he said.

The cost for each vaccination at the Student Health Center is \$2.50 for students and \$3.50 for faculty. The "flu clinic" will be open from 8 to 9 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday throughout fall term.

Vaccines also will be available at the Lane County Health Department around Dec. 1.

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MEETINGS

There will be a Phi Eta Sigma freshman honor society meeting tonight at 6 in Room 112 EMU. Current and prospective members are invited to attend. Bring ideas for service projects.

Alpha Kappa Psi will meet tonight at 6:30 in Room 333 Gilbert. Guest speaker Larry Smith of Career Planning and Placement will give insights in-

to the interview process. The public is encouraged to attend.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Committee for Musical Arts is presenting a documentary film on the life of avant-garde saxophonist Ornette Coleman. "Ornette: Made In America" will be shown Friday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. in Room 198, School of Music.

The College of Business is

now accepting applications for peer advisers. Applications are available in Room 271 Gilbert and are due Nov. 15.

Learn what the Career Planning and Placement Service has to offer. An orientation will be held today, from 2 to 2:30 p.m. in Room 237 Hendricks Hall.

Find out what employers want to know in an interview. The CPPS is offering an interview workshop today from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Room 12 Hendricks Hall.

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important than the quantity."

Howell stressed that the hospice staff offers patients the opportunity to deal with realities about death and dying.

"The help we give our patients is not hand-holding," she said. "Some people think we are 'tofu eaters' and bedside counselors." But that's not the case. For example, we go over a sheet of paper with our patients that lists the signs and symptoms of death.

Many patients find this practice helpful, Howell said.

"They say, 'OK, I know what to expect now. I can handle it,'" she said. "It also helps prepare the patient's family for death."

In addition to the hospice coordinators, patient care at

McKenzie-Willamette and Sacred Heart is coordinated and reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of other professionals. This includes a medical director, a registered nurse, doctors, dietary and pharmacy consultants, physical therapists and certified home aides, Curry said.

Each member of the team works in cooperation with the others, visiting the home periodically for 30 minutes to an hour. The patient or caregiver also can call the hospice center at any time of the day or night and have 24-hour access to a nurse, Curry and Howell said.

In addition, a chaplain is

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