

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: No fiscal impact****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/2, 3/9

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires that from October 1 through March 1, each hospital in the state should offer immunizations against influenza virus to patients 65 years and up. Specifies that offers are based on availability of influenza vaccine and recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices by the Center of Disease Control and Prevention. Requires Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Codifying what most hospitals provide
- Data showing necessity
- Standardizing operation
- Informed consent
- Effectiveness of flu shot in elderly population

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Influenza, also known as the flu, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus which can range from mild to severe, and in the worst cases can result in hospitalization or death. The flu can exacerbate existing chronic health problems such as heart disease, asthma, and liver disorders. It can lead to complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis, and sinus infections. The Centers for Disease and Control reports that adults 65 years of age and older are at higher risk for flu-related complications than other populations and recommends flu vaccines to protect this age group. In most flu seasons, 90 percent of flu-related deaths and between 50 and 60 percent of flu-related hospitalizations occur in people 65 years and older.