|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SSMED-1610** | Influenza |
| **Version No.** | 1 |
| **Content Owner** | Vikand Technology Solutions, LLC. |
| **Revision Date** | 5 November 2020 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | The objective is to reduce crew influenza related illness and prevent outbreaks of influenza through a crew influenza vaccination program. |
|  | **Process**   * 1. ***Procurement of Influenza Vaccine*** * VIKAND, Medical on-board Operations Manager will coordinate procurement of seasonal influenza vaccines with the company. * Each ship will be instructed on the initial quantity of vaccines to order. * Requests for additional vaccines and associated supplies will be reviewed by the VIKAND Medical Operations Manager.   1. ***Vaccination Storage*** * Vaccines must be stored between 2-8°C in a designated medical refrigerator and must not be exposed to freezing temperatures. * Cold chain management should be maintained during transport and throughout the vaccination process. * If cold chain has been breached, notify the VIKAND Medical, On Board Operations Manager.   1. ***Program Administration*** * Information regarding seasonal influenza and the influenza vaccine should be available to crew prior to commencing the program. This may include posters, information leaflets and electronic messages. * The northern hemisphere seasonal influenza program will commence on 1 November 2020 and remain active until 31 Jan 2021. * The Doctor should coordinate with the Staff Captain and Department Managers to coordinate vaccination dates, times and locations. To launch the program, medical staff should identify and communicate a specific day, time and location in order to vaccinate the majority of crew. * This should occur between clinic times and not impact the delivery of essential patient services. * Vaccination may occur outside the medical center to maximize operational efficiencies. * The vaccination administration date may need to be spread over a few days or weeks. * Stagger appointment times to maintain physical distancing and discourage crowding. * Once the date and time is confirmed the on-board medical staff is to inform the Medical, On Board Operations Manager * The goal is to achieve a 90% vaccine uptake to achieve herd immunity that protects the crew population from outbreaks. * Crew who join after commencement of the Influenza program are to be offered the seasonal influenza vaccine at or on induction training or considered for the next date of administering * Crew members are to be screened by the medical team on the day of vaccination, any positive responses to any of the following screening questions should be offered a brief clinical evaluation and/or education  1. Do you have a fever or feel unwell today? 2. Do you have an allergy to eggs or egg products? 3. Have you ever had a bad reaction to the flu shot?  * If all screening questions are answered "no" and the crew member has signed consent, the vaccine should be administered as an intramuscular injection into the deltoid muscle. * The Medical Staff member administering the vaccine should record the batch number, the site of the injection on their Vaccination card. * If the ship has SeaCare all vaccinations are to be recorded within the mass vaccination module. Please refer to Instruction for mass vaccination SeaCare * If the ship does not have SeaCare, the vaccinations are to be recorded in the Vaccination Program record excel document. * Crew members that refuse influenza vaccination should be offered additional education regarding the benefits of the vaccine and sign the refusal section on the consent form. * Periodic progress reports should be sent to the Medical, On Board Operations Manager once per week until closing of the program.   1. ***Clinical Considerations*** * Crew members who have any conditions that contraindicate vaccination against seasonal influenza should be referred for medical assessment. The following should be taken into consideration before the decision is made not to vaccinate:  1. Presence of fever or acute illness.  Conduct a clinical evaluation. 2. Reported allergy to eggs or egg products. Only known egg protein allergy that resulted in anaphylaxis is a contra-indication to the influenza vaccine.  Mild egg allergy symptoms are not a contraindication to vaccination. 3. Previous adverse reactions to the influenza vaccination may be a contra-indication to vaccination and each case should be considered individually. 4. Pregnancy is not a contra-indication to the influenza vaccine. Pregnant patients are at higher risk of severe disease and complications from influenza and should be encouraged to receive vaccination.    1. ***Vaccination Refusal***  * Crew have an individual right to refuse vaccination and that choice must be recorded in the vaccination record. * In specific situations required for public health, the Company reserves the right to take any additional measures as deemed necessary where crew refuse vaccination. * Crew members who refuse to be vaccinated~~,~~ should be offered additional education at a suitable time and location. Medical staff should refrain from expressing their personal opinions about vaccination, but rather provide evidence-based facts and education about the benefits of influenza vaccination.      * 1. ***Influenza Vaccination Record*** * A record of all crew members who have been evaluated for the seasonal influenza vaccination program should be documented electronically in the Mass Vaccination section of SeaCare. If electronic health records system is unavailable, in the vaccination program excel log. * Each crew member should be categorized as one of the following: * Vaccinated * Allergic * Refused * For Review   1. ***Educational Material*** * Crew should have access to resources that allow evidence-informed decisions regarding vaccination [e.g., posters, fact sheets]. * Educational materials should be displayed in prominent locations around the ship, including the medical center and crew notice boards. * Refer to:   [Link]: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm>  [Link]: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html> |
|  | **Responsibilities**   * 1. ***Doctor*** * Implementation of the crew seasonal influenza vaccination program.   1. ***Shoreside Medical Department & VIKAND*** * Selection of ships participating in the vaccination program. * Issuing vaccine ordering instructions. |
|  | **Documents:**   * Influenza Vaccination Record * Influenza Vaccine Leaflet * Influenza VIS * Frequently Asked Influenza (Flu) Questions: 2020-2021 Season Website * Fight the Flu Poster Example * NH Seasonal influenza vaccine consent form |