



Colleen O Toole LOCAL

-Colleen O'Toole is president of the Greater Cincinnati Health Council.

accination of health-care workers is a primary strategy being used by hospitals in our region and throughout the country to protect patients from being exposed to respiratory illnesses, including flu. And for good reason: Influenza is highly contagious, it spreads before symptoms appear and it results in about 150,000 hospital admissions and 24,000 deaths annually.

The single-most effective way to prevent the flu is to get a flu shot each year. This is why all 34 hospitals in the Greater Cincinnati region provide free vaccination for their health-care workers and it's why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended annual vaccination of healthcare workers since 1981.

Approximately 90 percent of all employees in the region were

- · one way to help
- · not get the flu · Single-most effective · free flu shots
- · got a flu shot · only 64%

Vaccinating health care workers is one



way to help patients not get the flu



The single-most effective way to prevent the flu





in the Greater Cincinnati region





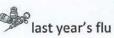
workers



About 90% of health-care workers in the



region got a flu shot last year's flu





Only about 64% of health-care workers got a



flu shot each year.