



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

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HEALTH ALERT

To: Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care Facilities Services in Yolo County

From: Ronald W. Chapman, MD., MPH
Health Officer, Yolo County

Date: October, 16 2017

Subject: Increased Influenza Activity in Yolo County Skilled Nursing & Long Term Care Facilities

Yolo County Health and Human Services has been alerted to an outbreak of confirmed influenza cases in a skilled nursing facility in Yolo County.

Key Points and Recommendations:

- The updated 2017-2018 influenza immunization recommendations can be reviewed here: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/index.htm> Healthcare providers should be vaccinated for influenza, and if not they must wear a mask while providing patient care during the flu season, which officially begins on November 1, 2017.
- Remind staff, residents, family and guest about ways to prevent the spread of the flu, and if sick to limit contact with others and stay home.
- Antiviral therapy with is recommended for individuals with confirmed or suspected influenza infection that is severe, progressive, results in hospitalization, or occurs in individuals who are at higher risk of complications.
 - Treatment has been shown to reduce duration of symptoms and complications when administered early, and should not be delayed while awaiting test results.
- Report any confirmed influenza cases immediately to Yolo County Public Health at 530-666-8670.

Diagnostic Testing:

Several tests are available to help with influenza diagnosis, including rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs), immunofluorescence, viral culture, and RT-PCR. Healthcare providers using rapid tests should be aware that while useful, there are limitations to RIDTs (variable sensitivity) and negative RIDT test results should be interpreted with caution given the potential for false negative results.

The approved specimen types for influenza RT-PCR testing are nasopharyngeal swabs, nasal swabs, throat swabs, nasal aspirates, nasal washes, dual nasopharyngeal/throat swabs, bronchoalveolar lavage, bronchial wash, tracheal aspirate, sputum, and lung tissue from human patients with signs and symptoms of respiratory infection.

Davis
600 A Street
Davis, CA 95616
Mental Health (530) 757-5530

West Sacramento
500 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95605
Service Center (916) 375-6200
Mental Health (916) 375-6350
Public Health (916) 375-6380

Winters
111 East Grant Avenue
Winters, CA 95694
Service Center (530) 406-4444

Woodland
25 & 137 N. Cottonwood Street
Woodland, CA 95695
Service Center (530) 661-2750
Mental Health (530) 666-8630
Public Health (530) 666-8645

To conduct RT-PCR testing for influenza:

- Collect the specimen as soon as possible after illness onset.
- Collection should be by trained personnel using droplet precautions.
- Place the sample in viral transport media and store and transport at 4°C within 48 hours of collection.

To acquire influenza specimen collection kits, or if you have any questions please contact please contact Yolo County Public Health/Infectious Disease at 666-8670, or after hours at 530-321-3620.