



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

Karen Larsen, Director

Larissa May, MD, MSPH
Interim Public Health Officer

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Health Officer Order

To: All Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Practices, Physicians, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care Facilities and Ambulance/Fire Services in Yolo County

From: Larissa May, MD, MPH
Interim Health Officer, Yolo County

Date: October 1, 2020

Subject: Mandatory Influenza Prevention Program for All Healthcare Workers in Yolo County

Order

Pursuant to Health Officer authority under California Health & Safety Code § 120175, I hereby order all health care facilities in Yolo County to develop and implement a mandatory influenza vaccination program for the 2020- 2021 influenza season, **November 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021**. The program shall require all health care workers to provide evidence of influenza vaccination. If a health care worker is unable to provide such evidence, or declines vaccination, that worker shall wear a surgical mask both while providing patient care AND while working in all areas of the healthcare facility during influenza season.

Duration of Order

For the purposes of this order, the influenza season is defined as November 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021. If influenza surveillance data suggest widespread influenza activity late in the spring, this order may be extended. Please note that this order will be reissued for the 2021-2022 influenza season.

Background

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that in the US as many as 62,000 people died of influenza during the 2019/2020 flu season and up to 740,000 were hospitalized. Health Care Workers (HCWs) are both at risk for influenza and can transmit the virus to their vulnerable patients. Influenza vaccination of HCWs protects medically fragile patients and reduces employee absenteeism during influenza season. Conversely, high rates of HCW flu vaccination have been linked to improved patient outcomes, reduced absenteeism, and reduced flu infection among staff. Mandatory vaccination with masking policies have been shown to increase HCW vaccination rates to above 90%.

We can all minimize the harmful and costly impacts of the flu on us and our families, friends, co-workers, clients, patients, communities, and county by getting vaccinated. Flu season is generally during the fall and winter (November through April), with a peak in February, but can extend to other months. In the U.S., yearly flu infections are in the millions, with a significant number of related hospitalizations and deaths each year.

California state law (Health & Safety Code §1288.7 | Cal OSHA §5199) requires either flu vaccination or the signing of a declination statement for all acute care hospital workers and most health-care personnel, including clinic and office-based staff. Over the last several years, many county Health Officers in California (including Yolo County) have mandated that healthcare workers receive an annual flu vaccine or use a mask during flu season.

Definitions

Health care facilities: Include hospitals, clinics, medical practices, skilled nursing facilities, other long-term care facilities and ambulance/fire services.

Health care worker: All workers, paid or volunteer, who have direct patient contact or work in patient care areas. This includes but is not limited to: clerical staff, dietary workers, janitorial staff, medical assistants, nurses, physician assistants, physicians and other allied health workers.