



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

Karen Larsen, LMFT
Director

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH
Health Officer

MAILING ADDRESS
137 N. Cottonwood Street • Woodland, CA 95695
www.yolocounty.org

Health Officer Order

To: All Health Care Facilities and Providers in Yolo County

From: Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH, Yolo County Health Officer

Date: October 15, 2021

Subject: Mandatory Influenza Vaccination for All Health Care Workers in Yolo County

Pursuant to Health Officer authority under California Health & Safety Code Section 120175, I hereby order all health care facilities in Yolo County to develop and implement a mandatory influenza vaccination program for the 2021-2022 influenza season, **November 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022**. 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 in patient care areas and while working in all other areas of the health care facility during influenza season.

Duration of Order

For the purposes of this Order, the influenza season is defined as November 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022. If influenza surveillance data suggest widespread influenza activity late in the spring, this Order may be extended.

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as 62,000 Americans died of influenza during the 2019-2020 flu season and up to 740,000 were hospitalized nationwide. Health care workers (HCWs) are at risk for influenza and can transmit the virus to their vulnerable patients. Influenza vaccination of HCWs reduces employee absenteeism during influenza season and protects vulnerable patients. 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%.

Flu activity during the 2020-2021 influenza season was unusually low. COVID-19 mitigation measures such as wearing face masks, staying home, handwashing, school closures, reduced travel, increased ventilation of indoor spaces, and physical distancing likely contributed to low influenza incidence, hospitalizations, and deaths this past season. Experts do not expect flu activity during the 2021-2022 flu season to be as low as last season, primarily because many of the COVID-19 mitigation measures in place during last flu season are no longer in place or may not be in place for the duration of the 2021-2022 flu season. For example, schools have reopened for in-person instruction, workers have returned to in-person work, and travel has resumed. Universal indoor masking requirements for COVID-19 currently in effect are tied to COVID-19 case rates and may be lifted prior to May 2022. Therefore, flu vaccination is recommended for the upcoming 2021-2022 flu season as strongly as ever before. Concurrent epidemics of both influenza and COVID-19, also known as a "twindemic," are possible, and could overwhelm the capacity of the health care system to respond. Vaccination of health care workers and the general public against influenza can prevent such a twindemic.

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

State Law

California Health & Safety Code Section 1288.7 requires all general acute care hospitals to require its employees to be vaccinated, or if the employee elects not to be vaccinated, to declare in writing that they have declined the vaccination. This section also requires hospitals to adopt a seasonal influenza plan.

Title 8, Section 5199 of the California Code of Regulations outlines the Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) standard of the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA). The ATD standard requires that health care facilities and other facilities at increased risk of ATD infection (including but not limited to hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient clinics and medical offices, home health care, hospices, long-term health care facilities, emergency medical services, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and drug treatment programs) shall make available seasonal influenza vaccine to all employees with occupational exposure, and the employer shall ensure that each employee who declines the vaccination signs a declination statement.

Thank you for your cooperation in protecting Yolo County residents and health care workers from influenza.