



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

*Nolan Sullivan*  
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 11, 2022

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 2022-2023 influenza season, **November 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023**. 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, 2022 to April 30, 2023. 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 and 2021-2022 influenza seasons 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,

#### 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

and deaths during the past 2 seasons. Experts do not expect flu activity during the 2022-2023 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. Therefore, flu vaccination is recommended for the upcoming 2022-2023 flu season as strongly as ever before.

### **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.