



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

Nolan Sullivan
Director

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH
Health Officer

MAILING ADDRESS
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Health Officer Order

To: All Health Care Facilities and Providers in Yolo County

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

Date: October 3, 2023

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, 2023 through April 30, 2024**. The program shall require all health care workers to provide evidence of influenza vaccination for the current season. 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 during influenza season. In place of a surgical mask, a health care worker not vaccinated against influenza may elect to wear a respirator with equal or higher protection.

Duration of Order

For the purposes of this Order, the influenza season is defined as November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024. 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 58,000 Americans died of influenza during the 2022-2023 flu season and up to 650,000 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%.

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

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

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.