



Date: September 30, 2021
To: Health-Care Facilities Administrators and Staff
From: Maggie Park, M.D., San Joaquin County Public Health Officer *m.p.*
Subject: Health Officer Order

Influenza Vaccination of All Health-Care Workers (HCW) During Flu Season

Health care workers (HCW) understand the importance of receiving an annual influenza vaccine to protect themselves and co-workers, families, friends, and patients. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, getting a flu vaccine is even more important, as some initial symptoms present the same. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes the flu and COVID-19 viruses will likely spread this fall and winter and recommends all people 6 months and older get a yearly flu vaccine. Flu vaccination of all HCW will lead to improved patient outcomes and reduced flu infection among staff. So, in accordance with our shared goals of high quality and safe patient care, I mandate all health-care facilities in San Joaquin County require their HCW working in health care settings get the flu vaccine.

Order: Pursuant to Health Officer authority under California Health & Safety Code §120175 and in combination with California state law (Health & Safety Code §1288.7 / Cal OSHA §5199), I hereby order all health care facilities (hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, skilled nursing and other long term-care facilities, physician's offices, home healthcare and similar health-care settings) in the County adopt and implement policies and programs to require all HCW to receive the annual flu vaccine. In the rare circumstance a HCW is exempt from vaccination with a signed declination letter, a face mask must be worn at all times while working.

Persons Covered: Health Care Workers (HCW) are all persons, including paid and unpaid employees, contractors, students, and volunteers, working in settings where patient care or other service is provided within six feet of a patient.

Duration of Order: Unless and until rescinded, this Order applies during each influenza season, defined 1 November of one year to 30 April of following year. If surveillance data in a particular year demonstrate the flu season is different from these dates, then this time-period may be changed by a further order. We trust all facilities subject to this Order will comply fully and notify their HCW of its provisions.

Thank you for the role you and other HCW play in preventing flu-related illness and death. By getting vaccinated for the flu, HCW can significantly mitigate the severity of the upcoming influenza and COVID-19 *twindemic* in our communities.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/flu/ and
www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx