

Date: September 28, 2022
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

The U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recommend annual flu vaccination of all HCW. Receiving the annual influenza vaccine is important to protect HCW and their co-workers, patients, families, and friends. We know that influenza is highly contagious and will likely be circulating this fall and winter along with the COVID-19 virus and other respiratory viruses. Flu vaccination of all HCW will lead to decreased flu outbreaks in healthcare settings, improved patient outcomes, and reduced flu infection among staff. For all of these reasons, it is imperative that all HCW receive an annual influenza vaccination or, for those Health Care Workers who decline the vaccine, wear a mask whenever present in patient care or resident living areas during Influenza Season.

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. HCW who are exempt from vaccination with a signed declination letter must wear a face mask 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Duration of Order: Unless and until rescinded, this Order applies during each influenza season, defined 1 November of one year to 30 April of following year.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. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/flu/.