



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

Karen Larsen,
Director

Ron Chapman, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer

137 N. Cottonwood Street • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8645 • www.yolohealth.org

Health Officer Order

To: All Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Practices, Physicians, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care Facilities and Ambulance/Fire Services in Yolo County

From: Ronald W. Chapman, MD, MPH
Health Officer, Yolo County

Date: October 1, 2019

Subject: Influenza Vaccination and Masking Mandate of All Healthcare Workers in Yolo County

Order

Pursuant to Health Officer authority under California Health & Safety Code § 120175, I hereby order all health care facilities in Yolo County to develop and implement a mandatory influenza vaccination program for the 2019-2020 influenza season, beginning **November 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020**. 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 while working in patient care areas during influenza season.

Background

The U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recommend annual flu vaccination of all healthcare workers (HCW). Many flu outbreaks linked to health HCW have been documented in hospital wards and long-term care facilities. Conversely, high rates of HCW flu vaccination have been linked to improved patient outcomes, reduced absenteeism, and reduced flu infection among staff.

We can all minimize the harmful and costly impacts of the flu on us and our families, friends, co-workers, clients, patients, communities, and county by getting vaccinated. Flu season is generally during the fall and winter (November through March), with a peak in February, but can extend to other months. In the U.S., yearly flu infections are in the millions, with a significant number of related hospitalizations and deaths each year.

California state law (Health & Safety Code §1288.7 | Cal OSHA §5199) requires either flu vaccination or the signing of a declination statement for all acute care hospital workers and most health-care personnel, including clinic and office-based staff. Over the last several years, many county Health Officers in California (including Yolo County) have mandated that healthcare workers receive an annual flu vaccine or use a mask during flu season.

Definitions

Influenza Season: **Influenza season is defined as November 1 through March 31** of each year unless circumstances warrant starting the season earlier or extending it later. You will be notified if this is necessary.

Health care facilities: Include All Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Practices, Physicians, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care Facilities and Ambulance/Fire Services in Yolo County

Health care worker: All workers, paid or volunteer, who have direct patient contact or work in patient care areas. This includes but is not limited to: clerical staff, dietary workers, janitorial staff, medical assistants, nurses, physician assistants, physicians and other allied health workers.

If you have questions, please contact Yolo County Public Health (530) 666-8643.