



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

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HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Yolo County Healthcare Providers

From: Ron W. Chapman
Health Officer, Yolo County

Date: February 21, 2020

Subject: Influenza Health Advisory, Masking Mandate

Situation Update:

Yolo County Public Health implemented a mandatory influenza vaccination program for the 2019-2020 influenza season, beginning **November 1, 2019** and ending **March 31, 2020**. Effectively today, February 21, 2020, Sacramento County will be lifted their Masking Orders early due to increasing demands for masks.

At this time, Yolo County will **NOT** be lifting our 2019-2020 Influenza Season Masking Orders for healthcare workers.

In the past 4 weeks, approximately 9% of Emergency Department (ED) visits have been for influenza-like illness; well above the baseline level of 2% of ED visits. This flu season has disproportionately effected our pediatric population. There have been two deaths from influenza this season in Yolo County and one of them being a child.

The Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual flu vaccination for all healthcare workers. California State Law and Cal OSHA require either flu vaccination or the signing of a declination statement for all health-care personnel.

In response to increased demand for surgical masks, we are asking healthcare facilities to make prudent decisions regarding the use of existing resources. The best and most effective infection control measures are those based on scientific evidence regarding viral transmission. The main strategies to prevent flu/cold transmission include:

- Prudent use of your surgical mask, do not leave them in open areas for visitors to take
- Restriction of non-patient care staff entering patient isolation rooms, prioritize patient care staff and discuss reassigning non-patient care staff duties
- Prohibition of visits for patients who are isolation
- Adherence to respiratory and cough etiquette and encouragement of hand washing by patients and visitors.
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough and sneeze into upper sleeve(s).

- Clean hands after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Avoid touching nose, mouth, and eyes.
- Wash hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds before and after contact with patients, after using PPE, and after touching contaminated surfaces; use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.
- Anyone displaying respiratory illness symptoms should stay home from work

Yolo County Public Health is actively monitoring the mask supply. If your facility is experiencing a masking shortage please contact the Yolo County MHOAC (530) 321-3620.