



County of Sacramento

INFLUENZA HEALTH ADVISORY MASKING MANDATE REMAINS IN EFFECT

March 29, 2019

Situational Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a health advisory yesterday to notify clinicians that national influenza activity remains high, with an increasing proportion of activity due to influenza A(H3N2) viruses. Sacramento County is also seeing continued influenza activity. As of Week 12 (ending 3/23/19), a total of 106 cases (intensive care unit hospitalizations and deaths among all ages) have been reported to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) for the 2018-2019 influenza season. Six cases were reported during Week 12, a 20% increase from Week 11 (ending 3/16/19), with 50% due to influenza A(H3N2). Influenza activity is expected to continue for several weeks. The masking mandate remains in effect until further notice.

Actions Requested of Health Care Systems and Clinicians:

1. **Continue to enforce** masking mandate for all health care workers with *direct patient contact* who have not been immunized for the 2018/2019 influenza season.
2. **Offer** the influenza vaccine to all health care workers, especially those with direct patient contact.
3. **Ensure** ill health care workers remain home and do not go to work.
4. **Encourage** influenza vaccination for any patient six months of age and older who do not have a medical contraindication for receiving the vaccination.
5. **Implement** infection control precautions as appropriate.
6. **Treat** with antivirals (e.g., oseltamivir, zanamivir, peramivir) as early as possible any patient confirmed or suspected to have influenza who: is hospitalized; has severe, complicated, or progressive illness; or is at higher risk for influenza complications.
7. **Report** electronically to SCPH – via CalREDIE or confidential fax at (916) 854-9709 – the following laboratory-confirmed influenza cases:
 - **Intensive care unit (ICU)** cases of **all ages**
 - **Deaths** of **all ages**
 - **Novel influenza viruses** regardless of age, hospitalization, or vital status
 - **Outbreaks**

Medical records (e.g., admission notes, laboratory results, discharge summary, vaccination information) for **all** ICU and fatal cases should be uploaded into the CalREDIE filing cabinet or sent via confidential fax to (916) 854-9709.

For information about influenza, visit the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm> or the CDPH's website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx>. For information about immunization services or client referrals to influenza clinics, contact the Sacramento County Immunization Assistance Program at 916-875-SHOT (7468).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivia Kasirye MD".

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer