

INFLUENZA HEALTH ADVISORY – BEGIN MASKING MANDATE

November 1, 2019

Situational Update

The 2019-2020 influenza season officially started on Sunday, September 29th. All health care providers are required to report influenza-associated intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and influenza-associated deaths of all ages to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) (see below). There have been several reports of influenza-associated ICU admissions to date. The masking mandate is in effect as of November 1, 2019.

Actions Requested of Health Care Providers:

1. **Implement** masking mandate immediately for all health care workers with direct patient contact who have not been immunized for the 2019-2020 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 vaccine. Also encourage pneumococcal vaccination for patients and health care workers at an increased risk for pneumococcal disease.
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 1) is hospitalized, 2) has severe, complicated, or progressive illness or 3) 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:

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| <i>Intensive care unit (ICU) cases of all ages</i> | <i>Outbreaks</i> |
| <i>Deaths of all ages</i> | <i>Novel influenza viruses (e.g. H5N1, H7N9)</i> |

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>, CDPH’s website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx>, or SCPH’s website at <https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/What-You-Need-to-Know-About-the-Flu.aspx>. Contact the Sacramento County Immunization Assistance Program at 916-875-SHOT (7468) for information about immunization services or client referrals to influenza clinics.

Sincerely,



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 Public Health Officer