

INFLUENZA HEALTH ADVISORY

October 13, 2020

Situational Update

The 2020-2021 influenza season officially started on Sunday, September 27th. Influenza activity is currently low in California. This influenza season may be complicated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As a reminder, all health care providers are required to report all COVID-19 cases and all severe influenza cases to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH).

Actions Requested of Health Care Systems and Clinicians:

1. **Report** electronically to SCPH – via CalREDIE or confidential fax at (916) 854-9709 – the following laboratory-confirmed influenza cases:

<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>

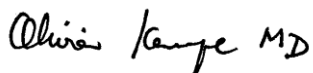
Medical records (e.g., admission notes, laboratory results, discharge summary, vaccination information) for **all** ICU and fatal cases should be uploaded into the CalREDIE filing cabinet or sent via confidential fax to (916) 854-9709.

2. **Test** patients with severe influenza-like illness for both influenza and COVID-19.
3. **Offer** the influenza vaccine to all health care workers, especially those with direct patient contact. Refer to your organization for questions related to exemptions.
4. **Encourage** influenza vaccination for any patient six months of age or older and 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, baloxavir) as early as possible any patient confirmed or suspected to have influenza who is 1) hospitalized, 2) has severe, complicated, or progressive illness, 3) is a higher risk for influenza complications.

For information about influenza, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>, the California Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx>, or SCPH’s website at <http://www.dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/What-You-Need-to-Know-About-the-Flu.aspx>. For information about immunization services, contact the Sacramento County Immunization Assistance Program at 916-875-SHOT (7468).

CDPH has also provided Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Influenza in California Skilled Nursing Facilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic at [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/RecsForPreventionControl Flu inCA SNFsDuringCOVID FINAL 100120.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/RecsForPreventionControl%20Flu%20in%20CA%20SNFsDuringCOVID%20FINAL%20100120.pdf).

Sincerely,



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