

RESPIRATORY DISEASE SEASON HEALTH ADVISORY

October 16, 2024

Situational Update

The respiratory disease season usually starts in October for influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) monitors for surges in influenza, RSV, and COVID-19 from October through May. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expects that the upcoming respiratory disease season will likely have a similar or lower number of combined peak hospitalizations due to COVID-19, influenza, and RSV compared to last season.¹

Vaccination and Masking

SCPH will be implementing the influenza masking mandate for all health care workers (HCWs) in Sacramento County starting November 1, 2024. Masking will be required in patient care areas for HCWs who have a contraindication or decline vaccination. SCPH also strongly recommends up-to-date vaccination against COVID-19 and RSV (for those who are eligible).

Actions Requested of Health Care Systems and Clinicians:

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

Influenza	RSV
<i>Intensive care unit (ICU) cases of all ages</i>	<i>Intensive care unit (ICU) cases of age <5</i>
<i>Deaths of all ages</i>	<i>Deaths age <5</i>
<i>Outbreaks (2+ cases with influenza-like illness within 72 hours, including a lab confirmed case)</i>	<i>Outbreaks (2+ cases with acute respiratory illness within 72 hours, including a lab confirmed case)</i>
<i>Novel influenza viruses (e.g. H5N1, H7N9)</i>	

Medical records (e.g., admission notes, lab results, discharge summary, vaccination info) for **all** ICU and fatal cases should be uploaded into the CalREDIE filing cabinet or faxed.

- Offer** the influenza and COVID-19 vaccine to all health care workers, especially those with direct patient contact. Refer to your organization for questions related to exemptions.
- Encourage** influenza and COVID-19 vaccination for patients six months of age or older, pneumococcal vaccination for patients and health care workers at an increased risk for pneumococcal disease, and RSV vaccine for eligible patients.
- Implement** infection control precautions as appropriate.
- Treat** with antivirals as early as possible for patients confirmed or suspected to have influenza or COVID-19, especially for hospitalized patients and those at risk of severe complications.

Resources:

- 2024-2025 Respiratory Disease Season Outlook (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/cfa-qualitative-assessments/php/data-research/season-outlook24-25/index.html>
- Respiratory Illnesses (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>
- Respiratory Viruses (CDPH): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Respiratory-Viruses/Home.aspx>
- Immunization Assistance Program (SCPH): [https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/ImmunizationAssistanceProgram/Pages/Immunization-Assistance-Program-\(IAP\).aspx](https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/ImmunizationAssistanceProgram/Pages/Immunization-Assistance-Program-(IAP).aspx)

Sincerely,



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 Public Health Officer