

Respiratory Virus Diseases Health Advisory

October 1, 2025

Situational Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expects that the upcoming fall and winter respiratory virus disease season will likely have a similar combined number of peak hospitalizations due to COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) compared to last season.¹ The peak week of hospitalizations for influenza will likely be moderate (compared to high severity the prior season) and similar to last season for RSV. For COVID-19, it is expected to be similar or higher than last season, especially if a variant with moderate immune-escape properties emerge in the fall.

The West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) has provided respiratory virus disease immunization recommendations for the upcoming season.² Recent revisions to Senate Bill 144 require health care insurers regulated by the Department of Managed Health Care to cover vaccines recommended by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Vaccination and Masking

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) will be implementing the influenza masking mandate for all health care workers (HCWs) in Sacramento County starting November 1, 2025. Masking will be required in patient care areas for HCWs who have a contraindication to or decline vaccination. SCPH also strongly recommends vaccination against COVID-19 and RSV (for those who are eligible).

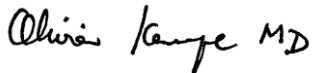
Actions Requested of Health Care Systems and Clinicians:

1. **Report** COVID-19, influenza, and RSV cases and/or outbreaks according to **Table 1** below.
2. **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.
3. **Encourage** COVID-19, influenza, and RSV vaccination for patients according to WCHA recommendations.²
4. **Implement** infection control precautions as appropriate.
5. **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:

1. 2024-2025 Respiratory Disease Season Outlook (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/cfa-qualitative-assessments/php/data-research/season-outlook25-26.html#:~:text=CDC%20expects%20the%20upcoming%20U.S.,opinion%2C%20and%20scenario%20modeling%20results>.
2. Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations (SCPH): <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Documents/AZ-Health-Info/ME-RespiratoryVirusSeasonImmunizationRecommendationsHealthAdvisory20250926.pdf>
3. Reportable Diseases and Conditions (SCPH): <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Pages/Reportable-Diseases-and-Conditions.aspx>
4. Respiratory Viruses (CDPH): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Respiratory-Viruses/Home.aspx>
5. 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

Table 1. COVID-19, Influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Reporting

	Influenza	RSV	COVID-19
Hospitalizations	Intensive care unit (ICU) admissions for cases of all ages ¹	Intensive care unit (ICU) admissions for cases age <5 ¹	Aggregate counts according to NHSN ³
Deaths	All ages ¹	Age <5 ¹	
Outbreaks	See CORHA Outbreak Definition ²	≥1 lab-confirmed case + ≥2 acute respiratory illness cases within 72 hours ²	See CORHA Outbreak Definition ²
Other	Novel influenza viruses (e.g., H5N1, H7N9) ¹		

1. Report laboratory-confirmed cases electronically to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) – via CalREDIE or confidential fax at (916) 854-9709. Medical records (e.g., admission notes, lab results, discharge summary, vaccination info) should be included for **all** ICU and fatal cases (upload to CalREDIE or fax).
2. Report outbreaks on the Outbreak Reporting Module:
<https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/Outbreak-Reporting.aspx>
 Council for Outbreak Response: Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial-Resistant Pathogens (CORHA) Outbreak Definitions
 - Influenza: <https://corha.org/assets/documents/influenza-thresholds-for-reporting-and-investigating-cases.pdf>
 - COVID-19: <https://corha.org/assets/documents/COVID-19-HC-Outbreak-Definition-Guidance-January-2024.pdf>
3. Report aggregate counts according to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN):
<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn>.