

## INFLUENZA HEALTH ADVISORY

### November 3, 2021

#### Situational Update

The 2021-2022 influenza season started October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Flu activity is currently low in California with no severe cases of influenza reported to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH). Flu activity was unusually low during the 2020-2021 flu season due to COVID-19 mitigation measures (e.g., masking, physical distancing etc.). All health care providers are required to report all severe influenza cases to SCPH.

#### Vaccination and Masking

For patient and staff safety, a mandatory flu vaccination policy is in effect across Sacramento healthcare facilities. Under the [current State Health Order](#), health care workers are required to wear a surgical mask or higher-grade respirator (e.g., N95 for all COVID-19 patient care) while working in the health care setting.

#### 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:

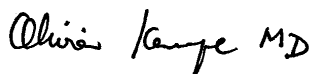
<i>Intensive care unit (ICU) cases of all ages</i>	<i>Outbreaks</i>
<i>Deaths of all ages</i>	<i>Novel influenza viruses (e.g. H5N1, H7N9)</i>

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

2. **Test** patients with severe flu-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 \(CDC\)](#), the [California Department of Public Health's \(CDPH\)](#), or [SCPH's](#) influenza websites. For information about immunization services, contact the Sacramento County Immunization Assistance Program at 916-875-SHOT (7468).

Sincerely,



Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS  
 Public Health Officer