



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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TO: Marin County Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Offices, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Correctional Facilities, and other Long-Term Care Facilities, Hospice, Home Health Agencies, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and other Health Facilities

RE: Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of All Health Care Workers

Influenza is one of the leading causes of preventable death from infection in the United States. Transmission can occur in health care facilities from health care workers (HCWs) to their colleagues or patients. Vaccination remains an important and effective protection against influenza infection and transmission.

In 2013, Marin County implemented mandatory flu vaccination to all health care facilities. In 2015, we included Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers. Last year, we expanded the definition of "health care worker" to all persons involved in direct patient care, such as corrections officers who transport patients.

Influenza immunization rates among staff at Marin County health care facilities have increased since implementing the order for mandatory vaccination. For the 2018-19 flu season, in addition to this Health Officer order, we are encouraging residential care, senior housing, and health care facilities to promote influenza vaccination among caregivers, home health workers, and volunteers who visit their facilities.

Background:

State law requires that general acute care hospitals and certain other health care facilities offer influenza vaccination to employees and, for those employees who decline vaccination, maintain a record of the signed declination form (CA Code of Regulations §5199 Aerosol Transmissible Diseases).

Order:

All health care facilities, including correctional facilities providing health care to inmates, and EMS providers in Marin County must implement a program requiring their health care workers or corrections officers to receive an annual influenza vaccination or, if they decline, to wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season while working in or transporting to patient care areas in that health care facility (including housing units that provide health care services).

Duration:

This order is ongoing and applies to each future influenza season unless modified, suspended, or rescinded. Influenza season starts October 27, 2018 (start of week 43) and ends April 27, 2019 (start of week 17). If influenza surveillance shows unusually early and/or late peaks, the order may be extended.

Facilities Subject to the Order:

This order applies to all health care facilities and EMS providers, including but not limited to: hospitals, skilled nursing and other long-term care facilities, outpatient medical clinics, hospice, home health agencies, all areas in correctional facilities that provide patient care and facilities as defined in the California Health & Safety Code Sections 1200-1209 and 1250-1264.

Definition of Health Care Worker:

For the purposes of this order, “health care workers” or “HCWs” are any persons, paid or unpaid, working in health care settings who have potential for exposure to patients, infectious materials or contaminated surfaces.

Definition of Corrections Officer:

For this order, “corrections officers” are officers responsible for the custody, safety, security, and supervision of inmates in a prison or any other correctional facility.

For any additional questions, please contact Danielle Hiser-Honda, Immunization Coordinator, at (415) 473 4163.

Thank you for your role in keeping Marin County one of the healthiest counties in California.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Santora MD, MPH
Deputy Public Health Officer