



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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



September 24, 2021

Benita McLarin, FACHE  
DIRECTOR

**TO:** Marin County Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Offices, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly, Correctional Facilities, Hospice, Home Health Agencies, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and other Health Facilities

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

**RE:** Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of Staff at Health Care and Specified Congregate Facilities

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH  
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Influenza is a vaccine preventable illness. Flu vaccination maintains a safe workplace, decreases infections and outbreaks among vulnerable clients and residents, and protects our healthcare system. While flu activity was unusually low throughout the 2020-2021 flu season, the co-occurrence of flu season and the COVID-19 pandemic increases the risk for medical surge. Marin County Public Health is issuing an order for mandatory influenza vaccination for all staff at health care and congregate facilities.

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Since 2013, Marin County has issued mandatory flu vaccination orders, which has expanded to include to include staff who work in high-risk settings. Flu vaccination safely and effectively prevents severe disease, emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths. During the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, where COVID-19, like influenza, results in respiratory symptoms, it is even more critical to assure widespread flu vaccination.

**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, skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, correctional facilities, and EMS providers in Marin County, must implement a program requiring all staff to receive an annual influenza vaccination

**Duration:**

This order is ongoing and applies to each future influenza season unless modified, suspended, or rescinded. Influenza season starts October 3, 2021 and ends April 30, 2022. 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 and specified congregate facilities and EMS providers, including but not limited to hospitals, cskilled nursing and other long-term

care facilities, correctional facilities, outpatient medical clinics, hospice, home health agencies.

For any additional questions, please contact Marin County Public Health at (415) 473 4163.

Sincerely,

Matt Willis MD, MPH  
Public Health Officer

Lisa M. Santora MD, MPH  
Deputy Public Health Officer