



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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Grant Nash Colfax, MD
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

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

3240 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901
415 473 4163 T
415 473 2326 F
415 473 3232 TTY
www.marincounty.org/hhs

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

RE: Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of All Health Care Workers

Background:

Influenza is one of the leading causes of preventable death from infection in the United States. Since 2013, Marin County has implemented mandatory flu vaccination in all health care facilities. Mandated vaccination of health care workers is shown to increase vaccination rates to above 95%, reducing absenteeism and preventing patient morbidity and mortality. Influenza immunization rates among staff at Marin County health care facilities have increased since implementing the order for mandatory vaccination.

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).

The influenza virus is contagious 24 hours before symptom onset, so a seemingly "healthy" person can infect others. The most vulnerable in our community (the elderly, children, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems) rely on health care providers and facilities to protect them from infectious disease.

For the 2017-18 flu season, in addition to this Health Officer order, I encourage residential care, senior housing, correctional facilities and health care facilities to promote influenza vaccination among staff, caregivers, home health workers, and volunteers who work in and/or visit their facilities.

Order:

All health care facilities and EMS providers in Marin County must implement a program requiring their health care workers to receive an annual influenza vaccination or, if they decline, to wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season while working in patient care areas in that health care facility.

Duration:

This order is ongoing and applies to each future influenza season unless modified, suspended, or rescinded. For the purposes of this order, "influenza season" is defined as November 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018. If influenza surveillance shows an unusually early and/or late peak, 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 and dental clinics, hospices, 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.

Definitions:

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

Under this order, a facility may elect to expand the definition of “health care worker” to include all persons working on facility properties and such an expanded definition is supported by the Health Officer.

For the purposes of this order, “patient care area” shall be defined and determined by the facility. This may include all facility properties if so determined by the facility.

For any additional questions, please contact Danielle Hiser, Immunization Coordinator at (415) 473-3078.

Thank you for your role in keeping Marin County healthy.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Santora MD, MPH
Deputy Public Health Officer