



Yolo County Department of Health Services

Jill Cook, MS, RN, PHN
Department Director

Constance J. Caldwell, MD
Health Officer

August 20, 2014

Health Alert

To: All Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Practices, Physicians, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care Facilities and Ambulance Services in Yolo County

From: Constance Caldwell MD
Health Officer, Yolo County

Subject: Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of All Healthcare Workers in Yolo County

Influenza season will begin again soon. Influenza causes the serious illness and death of thousands of patients every year. Health care workers can become ill with influenza and can transmit the virus to their patients. Influenza vaccination of all health care workers is essential to protect our community and our patients against influenza.

A study published in *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology August 2013* demonstrates the effectiveness of hospital mandates in improving influenza vaccination rates of healthcare workers. More than 20 other Northern California counties and jurisdictions have now mandated or strongly encouraged influenza vaccination of all health care workers. Our largest adjacent county, Sacramento, has a mandate order in effect throughout each influenza season.

Yolo County Public Health Officer orders that:

- All health care facilities in Yolo County implement policies that mandate annual influenza vaccination for all health care workers.
- All health care facilities in Yolo County implement policies requiring mandatory masking of unimmunized health care workers working in areas with patient contact for the duration of the influenza season.

Influenza season is defined as November 1 through March 31 of each year unless circumstances warrant starting the season earlier or extending it later. You will be notified if this is necessary. This order remains in place unless rescinded.

Health care facilities include hospitals, clinics, medical practices, skilled nursing facilities, other long-term care facilities and ambulance services.

Health care worker means all workers, paid or volunteer, who have direct patient contact or work in patient care areas. This includes but is not limited to: clerical staff, dietary workers, janitorial staff, medical assistants, nurses, physician assistants, physicians and other allied health workers.

For the purpose of this order, unless otherwise required, surgical masks are adequate. If you have questions, please contact Yolo County Health Department at 666-8645.