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To: Nevada County Hospitals, Skilled Nursing and other Long-Term Care Facilities, Ambulatory and Community Clinics, Medical Practices and other Healthcare Facilities

From: Ken Cutler, MD, MPH; Nevada County Health Officer

Subject: Health Officer Order Regarding Influenza Vaccination of Healthcare Workers

Dear Colleagues:

On August 31, 2012, the Nevada County Health Officer issued the following order:

I, as the Health Officer of Nevada County, am requiring that healthcare facilities in Nevada County implement a program requiring their healthcare workers to receive an annual influenza vaccination. For those healthcare workers that decline, healthcare facilities must implement a plan to prevent onsite healthcare workers affiliated with the facility from contracting and transmitting the influenza virus to patients. Such a plan may include requiring workers to wear a mask for the duration of influenza season, reassigning work activities, or other action appropriate to the individual facility.

The letter introducing the order also noted that in an effort to ensure minimal duration of the order, onset and termination of the season would be determined by the health officer using a combination of surveillance methods and will be communicated to local healthcare facilities.

Given that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveillance shows that the proportion of people seeing their healthcare provider for influenza-like illness (ILI) is above the national average and has risen for the past four weeks (from 2.8% to 5.6%) and that forty-one states are reporting widespread geographic influenza activity, I am declaring the onset of the influenza season for the purpose of implementing the above order.

I want to thank you for all your efforts to minimize the spread of the flu, to ensure patient safety, and to provide outstanding healthcare to our residents.

Sincerely,

Ken Cutler, MD, MPH