County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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January 10, 2013

Influenza Health Alert

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

From:
Connie Caldwell MD, Interim Health Officer, Yolo County

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

Influenza season is well underway this year. We are seeing very high levels of influenza in most parts of the country and are beginning to see an increase in California. As you know, 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.

Many counties and jurisdictions have mandated or strongly encouraged influenza vaccination of all health care workers. Given the high levels of influenza being seen in most of the country and the recent increase in California, and to be consistent with policies in our largest adjacent county,

Yolo County Health Department Interim Health Officer now 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 any unimmunized health care workers working in areas with patient contact for the duration of the influenza season.**
- **This order takes effect immediately and is in effect through March 31, 2013 unless circumstances warrant extending it later. You will be notified if this is necessary.**

Health care facilities include hospitals, clinics, medical practices, skilled nursing facilities and ambulance services.

Health care worker means all workers, paid or volunteer, who may 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 530-666-8645.

Sincerely,

C J Caldwell MD

Connie Caldwell MD
Interim Health Officer, Yolo County