

Countywide Services Agency

Department of
Health and Human Services

Public Health

Glennah Trochet, M.D., Health Officer



County of Sacramento

Steven C. Szalay,
Interim County Executive

Bruce Wagstaff, Administrator

Ann Edwards-Buckley, Director

DATE: July 6, 2011

TO: Sacramento County Hospital CEOs, Physicians, Medical Practices, Community Clinics and Ambulatory Care Centers

FROM: Glennah Trochet M.D.
Sacramento County Health Officer

RE: Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of All Healthcare Workers in Sacramento County

Influenza season will begin in the fall. In your roles as leaders in healthcare, and mine as the County Health Officer, I know we share a common goal: to minimize the spread of communicable diseases like influenza, provide outstanding healthcare for our citizens, and keep our healthcare worker population healthy.

Vaccination of healthcare workers reduces infection and absenteeism among them, prevents mortality in their patients, and results in financial savings to sponsoring health institutions. The best way to prevent transmission of a disease like influenza to those persons we serve is to mandate vaccination of healthcare workers and there are now two laws in California requiring flu vaccine for healthcare workers and other personnel at hospitals (CA Health & Safety Code §1288.7 effective January 1, 2007 and §5199 Aerosol Transmissible Diseases standard of Cal OSHA, effective September 1, 2010).

In addition to full adherence to these laws, I am requiring that all healthcare workers either receive the influenza vaccine or wear a mask during influenza season. All inpatient and ambulatory healthcare facilities in Sacramento must implement a masking program, requiring that all healthcare workers who do not receive the flu vaccine wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season while working in their facility. I am also recommending that healthcare administrators adopt an easy way to identify the healthcare workers who have received their influenza vaccine. One example of this type of concept is to place a sticker on the healthcare worker's badge following vaccination.

Many institutions nationwide and in California are going even further and making flu vaccine a condition of employment - only allowing exceptions to vaccination for those meeting any of the recognized specific medical contraindications or religious circumstances. For a list of other institutions, states, and federal mandates with this requirement, please see www.preventinfluenza.org.

We thank you for your assistance in working with Sacramento County DHHS Division of Public Health to make Sacramento a healthy community.