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## Upcoming Requirements for Reporting of Influenza Vaccination/Declination of Healthcare Personnel

Senate Bill (SB) 739 requires general acute care hospitals to annually offer influenza vaccination at no cost to employees and to obtain a declination statement from those who decline vaccination. The bill also requires reporting to the Department rates of influenza vaccination and declination for healthcare personnel beginning with the subsequent influenza season. Healthcare personnel is a term that includes individuals not usually considered to be employees as described below. To facilitate implementation of these requirements, the Healthcare Associated Infections Advisory Committee (HAI-AC) has recommended that for the 2008-2009 influenza season (September 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009), hospitals offer influenza vaccination to all healthcare personnel as follows:

**“By September 1, 2008** (for the 2008-09 Influenza Season) CDPH will communicate the recommendation to acute care hospitals that—

- (a) Each acute care hospital shall develop a list of healthcare personnel not included in the facility’s roster of employees AND not included in the group as outlined in “b” below who have frequent patient contact (e.g., volunteers, students, trainees, licensed independent practitioners [LIPs]) or who work in patient care areas (e.g. environmental services and dietary personnel) and establish baseline vaccination/informed declination rates. Examples of LIPs who might be prioritized include emergency department physicians, intensivists, oncologists, cardiologists, hospitalists, and neonatologists. *(Example of LIP attestation to be provided with AFL).*

**OR**

- (b) Facilities may choose to report vaccination and informed declination rates for all healthcare personnel not included in ‘employees’.”

September 1, 2008 is rapidly approaching. **Please consider initiating this process so that your facility will be able to implement the plan for the 2008-2009 influenza season.** An All Facilities Letter containing the full requirements for compliance with this portion of SB 739 will follow. The goal is to improve vaccination rates of healthcare personnel. The expectation is that an approach will be designed to prioritize this activity for healthcare personnel who have the most direct patient care, expanding outreach each year until all healthcare personnel are either vaccinated or decline vaccination. Rates of vaccination will be publicly reported.

For questions, please contact Sue Chen, HAI Program Coordinator at (510) 620-3434 or email [Sue.Chen@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Sue.Chen@cdph.ca.gov).