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To: Health Care Facility Administrators and Staff within Santa Barbara County

From: Charity Dean, MD, MPH
Santa Barbara County Public Health Officer
Van Do-Reynoso, PhD, MPH
Santa Barbara County Public Health Director

Date: September 19, 2017

Re: Health Officer Order for Influenza Vaccination or Masking of All Health Care Workers (HCW) During Influenza Season

Order

Pursuant to Health Officer authority under California Health & Safety Code § 120175, I hereby order all health care facilities in Santa Barbara County to develop and implement a mandatory influenza vaccination program for the 2017-2018 influenza season. The program shall require all health care workers to provide evidence of influenza vaccination. If a health care worker is unable to provide such evidence, that worker shall wear a surgical mask while working in patient care areas during influenza season.

Background Information

Influenza vaccination of health care workers (HCW) is critical because it protects our community, protects a vital work force, and reduces employee absenteeism during influenza season. Vaccination of health care workers is also a key component of public health preparedness. Importantly, the influenza virus is contagious *24 hours before symptom onset*, so a seemingly "healthy" person can infect others. The most vulnerable in our community (the elderly, children, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems) rely on health care providers and facilities to protect them from infectious disease. In consideration of this, this Health Officer Order is being issued.

Definitions

For the purposes of this order, "health care worker" shall be defined as any employed or non-employed individual who provides direct patient care or who works in a patient care area. This shall include physicians, ancillary staff, support staff, and volunteers.

Under this order, a facility may elect to expand the definition of "health care worker" to include all persons working on facility properties and such an expanded definition is supported by the Health Officer.

For the purposes of this order, "influenza vaccine" shall be defined as a vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the 2017-2018 influenza season.

For the purposes of this order, "influenza season" is defined as November 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018. If influenza surveillance data suggests that influenza season may end before or extend beyond April 30, 2018 then this order may be amended to shorten or extend the influenza season definition.

For the purposes of this order, "patient care area" shall be defined and determined by the facility. This may include all facility properties if so determined by the facility.

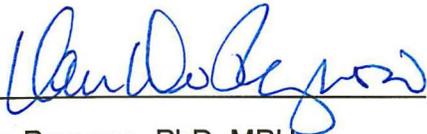
Signed:



Charity Dean, MD, MPH
Health Officer
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

9-19-17

Date



Van Do-Reynoso, PhD, MPH
Director
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

9/19/17

Date



Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD *Director*
Suzanne Jacobson, CPA *Chief Financial Officer*
Susan Klein-Rothschild, MSW *Deputy Director*
Douglas Metz, DPM, MPH *Deputy Director*
Polly Baldwin, MD, MPH *Medical Director*
Charity Dean, MD, MPH *Health Officer*

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Health Officer Influenza Vaccination and Masking Order

Frequently Asked Questions September 19, 2017

What is the Influenza Vaccination and Masking Order?

This order is issued by the Public Health Officer and requires all health care facilities to implement an influenza vaccination program for Health Care Workers (HCWs). The purpose of the order is to help protect patients, staff, and community members from acquiring influenza from infected health care personnel.

Why is the influenza vaccination and masking order needed?

Influenza is a disease with serious impact. The most effective method of preventing influenza infection is vaccination. HCWs often care for patients at highest risk of severe disease and are at increased risk of exposure to influenza from ill patients. Infected HCWs can transmit influenza before they are symptomatic to patients and coworkers. Research shows that mandatory vaccination with a masking policy is a proven strategy that increases HCW vaccination rates.

For the purposes of this order, what is the definition of “Health Care Worker”? Who is included in this definition?

For the purposes of this order, and unless an organization or facility elects to adopt an expanded definition, “health care worker” shall be defined as any employed or non-employed individual who provides direct patient care or who works in a patient care area. This shall include physicians, ancillary staff, support staff, and volunteers.

Why is the Health Officer Order being issued to all HCW this year, not just certain groups?

California Health and Safety Code section 120175 charges the Health Officer with controlling contagious, infectious, or communicable disease. Health Officers “shall take

measures as may be necessary” to prevent and control the spread of disease within their jurisdiction.

The chart below shows that since 2014, orders for influenza vaccination of HCW have been issued in Santa Barbara County to 4 different groups. In the interest of consistency of public health practice across the county, one order will be issued to all health care facilities this year.

Year	Groups Included in Order
2017	All HCWs
2016	Skilled Nursing Facility HCWs First Responders Public Health Dept. HCWs Hospital HCWs
2015	First Responders Public Health Dept. HCWs Hospital HCWs
2014	Public Health Dept. HCWs Hospital HCWs

Are other local health jurisdictions (counties and cities) across California issuing similar Health Officer Orders?

Yes. California has 61 local health jurisdictions (58 counties and 3 cities). In 2016, 39 of 61 (64%) issued a Health Officer Order mandating HCW influenza vaccine or masking. Some jurisdictions issued the order to specific groups, as has been done in Santa Barbara County the past 3 years, and some jurisdictions issued the order to all health care facilities. Such orders have become the standard of practice for public health departments across California.

The CDC defines influenza season as calendar weeks 40-20. This corresponds to October 2, 2017- May 20, 2018. Why does this order instead use the dates November 1, 2017-April 30, 2018?

Availability of influenza vaccine is sometimes a challenge during the month of October due to high demand. November 1, 2017 is used in the order to enable health care facilities ample opportunity to vaccinate HCWs by the effective date of the order.

In addition, the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) has adopted a recommendation that all Health Officers use the dates of November 1 - April 30 when issuing Health Officer Orders for influenza vaccination of HCWs. This will create a standardized practice across the state and eliminate discrepancies between jurisdictions.

When does the order take effect?

The Health Officer Order is effective on November 1, 2017.

Does reporting vaccination status or wearing a mask violate HIPAA?

Reporting vaccination status to an employer for the purposes of complying with a vaccination policy is not a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule because compliance is a condition of employment and has been legally mandated by the Health Officer.

How should a health care facility track and identify who has received the influenza vaccine?

A strategy to track and clearly identify which HCWs have received the influenza vaccine for the 2017-2018 season is highly recommended, but the specific approach will be determined by each facility.

Is the Public Health Department going to conduct audits of health care facilities to ensure compliance with the order?

No. This order is a tool that supports local health care organizations and facilities to require employees to comply with specific public health measures. Development of policies and protocols for employee vaccination is up to each organization or facility. This order will not be “enforced” by the Public Health Department in the traditional sense.

What kind of mask should be used? When should masks be changed?

The term “mask” in this order refers to a surgical mask. HCW should adhere to their facility’s policies regarding what types of masks are available and how often to change the masks. In some patient care situations, infection control guidelines require more protection than a surgical mask (e.g., N95 respirators). In these situations, unvaccinated HCWs should wear N95 respirators instead of surgical masks as the facility’s infection control guidelines indicate.

Can HCWs decline influenza vaccination based on religious or medical exemption?

HCWs may decline influenza vaccination. However, HCWs who do not get vaccinated for influenza, whether through religious declination, personal beliefs, or due to a medical exemption, must wear a mask during influenza season while working in patient care areas.

Flu Vaccine Resources

Influenza (Flu Basics)

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Symptoms can include fever, chills, coughing, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, body aches, chills, fatigue, vomiting and diarrhea.

Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones: Get Vaccinated

The CDC recommends that all people 6 months of age and older get a flu vaccine every flu season. While everyone should get a flu vaccine each flu season, getting vaccinated is particularly important for people at high risk of serious flu-related complications and close contacts of people at high-risk.

Yearly flu vaccination should begin as soon as vaccine is available, and continue throughout the flu season which can last as late as May.

Where do I get vaccinated?

Flu shots are covered by most health insurance plans, Medicare Part B, Medi-Cal and the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). Check with your child's provider to see if they participate in the VFC Program. To get a flu vaccine check with your regular health care provider. Even if you don't have a regular health care provider, you can get a flu vaccine from one of these other locations:

Santa Barbara County Health Care Centers / Community Clinics / Hospitals

Community Health Centers of the Central Coast - www.chccc.org - 1-866-614-4636

Cottage Health Systems Flu Hotline – www.sbch.org - 1-855-247-9355

Marian Community Clinic – 739-3890

Sansum Clinics Flu Hotline - www.sansumclinic.org - 681-7805

Santa Barbara County Health Care Centers (HCC) – www.sbcphd.org/iz

• Carpinteria HCC 560-1050 • Franklin HCC 568-2099 • Lompoc HCC 737-6400 • Santa Maria HCC 346-7230

Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics – www.sbclinics.com

• Eastside 963-1641 • Isla Vista 968-1511 • Westside 963-1546 • Goleta 617-7878

Free Community Based Flu Clinic

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Free Community Flu Clinic for ages 3 and over: November 1, 2017 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta

Other Resources

Several pharmacy and store chains are offering flu vaccine. For more information visit

<http://flushot.healthmap.org/> or one of the sites below:

Albertsons Savon Pharmacy – www.albertsonssavonpharmacies.com

Costco - www.costco.com

CVS - www.cvs.com/flu

Rite Aid - www.riteaid.com

Target - www.target.com

Vons - www.vons.com/ifl/grocery/Flu-Shots

Walgreens - www.walgreens.com/flu

Wal-Mart - www.walmart.com/flu



Recursos Para La Vacuna contra la Influenza

Influenza: Información Básica

La influenza es una enfermedad contagiosa causada por el virus de la influenza que infecta la nariz, la garganta y los pulmones. Puede causar una condición leve o grave, y en ocasiones puede causar hospitalización e incluso la muerte. Los síntomas pueden incluir fiebre, escalofríos, tos, dolor de garganta, congestión nasal, dolores de cabeza, fatiga, dolores musculares, vómitos y diarrea.

Protéjase y proteja a sus seres queridos: Vacúnese ahora!

El CDC recomienda que todas las personas mayores de 6 meses de edad reciban la vacuna contra la influenza. La vacunación es especialmente importante para las personas con alto riesgo de complicaciones graves de influenza y las que están en contacto directo con ellas.

La vacunación anual contra la influenza debe comenzar tan pronto como la vacuna esté disponible, y continuar durante toda la temporada de gripe, que puede durar hasta finales de mayo.

Donde me puedo vacunar?

Vacunas contra la influenza están cubiertas por la mayoría de los seguros médicos, Medi-Cal, Parte B de Medicare, y el programa de Vacunas para Niños de California (VFC). Para obtener una vacuna contra la gripe, consulte con su medico. Incluso si usted no tiene un doctor, usted puede obtener una vacuna contra la influenza en una de estas localidades:

Centros de Salud del Condado de Santa Barbara / Clínicas de la Comunidad / Hospitales

Community Health Centers of the Central Coast - www.chccc.org - 1-866-614-4636

Cottage Health Systems Flu Hotline – www.sbch.org - 1-855-247-9355

Marian Community Clinic – 739-3890

Sansum Clinics Flu Hotline - www.sansumclinic.org - 681-7805

Santa Barbara County Health Care Centers (HCC) – www.sbcphd.org/iz

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Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics – www.sbclinics.com

• Eastside 963-1641 • Isla Vista 968-1511 • Westside 963-1546 • Goleta 617-7878

Clínica Comunitaria Gratuita Para la Vacuna Contra la Gripe

Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado De Santa Barbara Clínica Comunitaria Gratuita Para la Vacuna Contra la Gripe para personas de 3 años y mayor: 1 de Noviembre, 2017 de 3:00 pm a 7:00 pm en el Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta

Otros Recursos

Farmacias y varias tiendas están ofreciendo la vacuna contra la influenza. Para más información visite

www.flushot.healthmap.org o uno de los siguientes:

Albertsons Savon Pharmacy - www.albertsonssavonpharmacies.com

Costco - www.costco.com

CVS - www.cvs.com/flu

Rite Aid - www.riteaid.com

Target - www.target.com

Vons - www.vons.com/ifl/grocery/Flu-Shots

Walgreens - www.walgreens.com/flu

Wal-Mart - www.walmart.com/flu