

Director of Public Health Nursing  
Deputy Director of Public Health  
Kelly Crosby, R.N., P.H.N.

**Modoc County Health Services** *Public Health Officer*  
**Public Health Department** Edward P. Richert, M.D.

October 1, 2014

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

From: Edward P. Richert, MD, Health Officer, Modoc County

Re: Mandatory Influenza Vaccination or Masking of Health Care Workers During Influenza Season

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Influenza season is here. 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. Since 2012, Modoc County Health Department has strongly recommended that all healthcare workers receive the influenza vaccine annually and that recommended that all health care facilities in Modoc County develop policies that mandate annual influenza vaccination for all health care workers (to include policies requiring mandatory masking of unimmunized health care workers working in areas with patient contact for the duration of the influenza season).

**ORDER**

For the 2014/2015 influenza season (and for every year thereafter until revoked), I am issuing a **Health Officer order** mandating that all hospitals, clinics, medical practices, physicians, skilled nursing facilities and ambulance services in Modoc County require their health care workers (HCWs) to receive an annual influenza vaccination or, if they decline, to wear a mask in patient care areas during the influenza season, effective November 1, 2014. This Health Officer order is in addition to State laws regarding influenza and HCWs. California Health & Safety code §120175 authorizes Health Officers to control contagious, infectious, or communicable disease and may “take measures as may be necessary” to prevent and control the spread of disease within their jurisdiction. Facilities must comply with the Health Officer order as well as the applicable State laws regarding influenza vaccine and HCWs.

Influenza season is defined as November 1 through March 31 unless circumstances warrant starting the season earlier or 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’s assistants, physicians and other allied health workers.

I appreciate your help and support in protecting the residents of Modoc County. For any additional questions, please contact our Communicable Disease Program at Modoc County Public Health 530-233-6311.

cc: Modoc County Board of Supervisors  
Margaret Long, Modoc County Council