



SARA BOSSE
Public Health Director

SIMON PAUL, M.D.
Health Officer

DATE: October 27, 2020

TO: Healthcare Providers and Employees

FROM: Dr. Simon Paul, Madera County Health Officer

RE: Health Officer's Order requiring influenza vaccination for all healthcare workers

As leaders in healthcare, we share common goals: to minimize the spread of communicable diseases, provide outstanding healthcare for our community, and keep our healthcare workers healthy. Vaccination of healthcare workers against influenza reduces infection and absenteeism, prevents patient mortality, and results in financial savings for our communities and the healthcare system.

I. BACKGROUND

For the 2020-2021 flu season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends flu vaccination for everyone six (6) months and older with any licensed influenza vaccine that is appropriate for the recipient's age and health status, including inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV), recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV), or live attenuated nasal spray influenza vaccine (LAIV4) with no preference expressed for any one vaccine over another. There are many vaccine options to choose from, but the most important thing is for all people six (6) months and older to get a flu vaccine this year. If you have questions about which vaccine is best for you, talk to your doctor or a health care professional. Since 2010, the CDC estimates that influenza has resulted in between 9.2 million and 35.6 million illnesses (3-12% of population), between 140,000 and 710,000 hospitalizations, and between 12,000 and 56,000 deaths annually. Persons with chronic medical conditions, infants and children, seniors, and pregnant women are at greater risk for severe influenza-related illnesses and deaths. All Health Care Personnel (HCP) are at risk for both contracting influenza and transmitting the virus to their vulnerable patients. Patients in our healthcare facilities are especially vulnerable to influenza. Influenza causes serious illness and death of thousands of patients every year.



Additionally, the CDC believes it is likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading during at least the present influenza season. In this context, getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever.

For additional information on flu vaccine please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/index.html>

II. HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER:

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5(b) the Health Officer of the County of Madera orders as follows:

- All Healthcare Facilities in Madera County implement policies that mandate annual influenza vaccination for all Healthcare Personnel.
- Healthcare Personnel are required to wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season while working in patient care areas in that health care facility and until further masking guidance is received for COVID-19 response.
- Any healthcare workers not immunized for influenza must continue to wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season, even if the COVID-19 mask guidance is updated.

All prior orders related to influenza vaccination of healthcare workers in Madera County, including the health officer order dated October 23, 2019, are hereby rescinded. Duration of this order is ongoing indefinitely and applies to current and future influenza seasons unless the order is rescinded. The influenza season is defined as November 1 to March 31 of each year unless circumstances warrant starting the season earlier or extending it later. You will be notified if this is necessary.

III. PERSONS COVERED

“Healthcare Personnel” are all persons, including paid and unpaid employees, contractors, students, and volunteers, who provide services within six (6) feet of patients in a licensed or unlicensed facility subject to this Order. Healthcare Personnel includes, but is not limited to, physicians (e.g., in private practice or healthcare systems), nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, emergency medical service personnel, dental personnel, pharmacists, laboratory personnel, autopsy personnel, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons (e.g., clerical, dietary, housekeeping, laundry, security, maintenance, administrative, billing, and volunteers) not directly involved in patient care, but potentially exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted to and from healthcare workers and patients due to their presence in areas where patient care is provided. For the purposes of this Order, “emergency medical service personnel” include paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and advanced EMTs. Physicians who are licensed independent

practitioners are also considered Healthcare Personnel, as well as employees of nursing homes and chronic care facilities, students in these professions, volunteers, and ancillary personnel who provide services within six (6) feet of a patient. "Healthcare Facilities" include hospitals, clinics, medical practices, skilled nursing facilities, other long-term care facilities, and ambulance services.

If you have any questions, please contact the Madera County Public Health Department, Communicable Disease Section.

I, as Health Officer for the County of Madera, encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer's Order. However, violation of this Order is subject to fine, imprisonment or both (California Health and Safety Code Section 120295.)



10/27/2020

Simon Paul, MD
Public Health Officer

Date