



## Health Advisory

May 18, 2022

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### Seasonal Influenza Activity is Increasing in Madera County

#### Situational Update

The Madera County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is informing health care providers that seasonal influenza activity has gradually been increasing locally in recent weeks, and this pattern of elevated activity has also been observed for Central California. MCDPH is sharing recent guidance and recommendations from the California Department of Public Health regarding vaccination, testing, and antiviral treatment in response to the current dual circulation of influenza and SARS-CoV-2. Influenza vaccination is still being recommended, especially for persons at high risk of severe influenza. Additionally, influenza testing, and influenza antiviral treatment are recommended in specific clinical scenarios.

#### Actions Requested of Clinicians

- **Consider influenza in the diagnosis for patients presenting with flu-like/COVID-like symptoms**
  - In general, all persons tested for influenza should also be tested for SARS-CoV-2.
  - For inpatient and/or congregate settings: Test all persons with respiratory illnesses.
  - For outpatient settings: Test all persons with respiratory illness for SARS-CoV-2. Test for influenza when it will affect clinical management or infection control.
  
- **Provide influenza antiviral treatment as soon as possible to any patient with confirmed or suspected influenza who is:**
  - Hospitalized.
  - At higher risk for influenza complications; or
  - Developing progressive illness.

➤ **Continue to recommend vaccinations:**

- Influenza vaccination, particularly to patients at high risk of severe influenza (and provide to your patients - if influenza vaccine is still available).
- Coadministration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccine when patients present for either vaccine separately.

**Additional Influenza Resources:**

- [Influenza \(ca.gov\)](#)
- [Influenza \(Flu\) | CDC](#)
- [Who Needs a Flu Vaccine | CDC](#)
- [People at Higher Risk of Flu Complications | CDC](#)
- [What You Should Know About Flu Antiviral Drugs | CDC](#)

**Link to the CDPH Health Advisory: Seasonal Influenza Activity is Increasing in California (issued May 17, 2022): [Here](#)**

For the latest information on COVID-19 in Madera County visit [www.maderacounty.com/covid19](http://www.maderacounty.com/covid19)

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

**Health Information:** Provides general health information which is not considered to be of emergent nature

