



MADERA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SARA BOSSE
Public Health Director

THOMAS COLE, MD
Health Officer

Date: October 23, 2019

Health Officer Order

To: All Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Practices, Physicians, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care Facilities, and Ambulance Services in Madera County
From: Thomas Cole, MD, Health Officer, Madera County *JCC*
Subject: Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of All Healthcare Workers in Madera County

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.

Influenza causes serious illness and death of thousands of patients every year. During the influenza seasons 2015 and 2016, in Madera County, there were 2 influenza related deaths and 3 ICU hospitalizations. For the most recent influenza season, Madera County had no influenza related deaths. For additional information of flu vaccine please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/index.html>

Healthcare workers may become ill with influenza, and as a result, transmit the virus to their patients. Influenza vaccination of all healthcare workers is essential to protect our community and our patients against influenza. A study published in *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, August 2013* demonstrates the effectiveness of hospital mandates in improving influenza vaccination rates of healthcare workers. More than 20 other California counties and jurisdictions have now mandated or strongly encouraged influenza vaccination of all healthcare workers.

Madera County Health Officer orders that:

- All healthcare facilities in Madera County implement policies that mandate annual influenza vaccination for all healthcare workers.
- All healthcare facilities in Madera County implement policies requiring mandatory masking of unimmunized healthcare workers working in areas with patient contact for the duration of the influenza season.

Duration of this order is ongoing indefinitely and applies to current and future influenza seasons unless the order is rescinded.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.

Healthcare facilities include hospitals, clinics, medical practices, skilled nursing facilities, other long-term care facilities, and ambulance services.

Healthcare workers means all workers, paid or volunteer, who 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 assistants, physicians, and other allied health workers.

For the purpose of this order, unless otherwise required, surgical masks are adequate. If you have any questions, please contact the Madera County Public Health Department, Communicable Disease Section.