

Santa Barbara County



**Disease Control and Prevention**

345 Camino Del Remedio • Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1332  
805/681-5280 • FAX 805/681-4069

Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD *Director*  
Suzanne Jacobson, CPA *Chief Financial Officer*  
Paige Batson, MA, PHN, RN *Deputy Director*  
Douglas Metz, DPM, MPH *Deputy Director*  
Polly Baldwin, MD, MPH *Medical Director*  
Henning Ansorg, M.D. *Health Officer*

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

**From:** Henning Ansorg, MD, Health Officer  
Van Do-Reynoso, PhD, MPH, Director

**Date:** April 29, 2019

**Re:** Extension of Health Officer Order for Influenza Vaccination or Masking of All Health Care Workers (HCW) During Influenza Season. Extension through May 15, 2019

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**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 2018-2019 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.

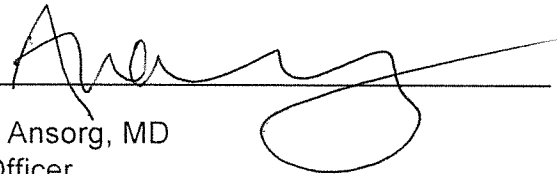
Under this order, a facility may elect to expand the definition of "health care worker" to include all persons working on facility properties and such an expanded definition is supported by the Health Officer.

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 2018-2019 influenza season.

For the purposes of this order, "influenza season" is defined as November 1, 2018 to May 15, 2019. If influenza surveillance data suggests that influenza season may end before or extend beyond April 30, 2019 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:**

  
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Henning Ansorg, MD  
Health Officer  
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

4-29-19  
Date

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

4/29/19  
Date