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

From: Henning Ansorg, M.D.
Santa Barbara County Public Health Officer
Van Do-Reynoso, PhD, MPH
Santa Barbara County Public Health Director

Date: September 15, 2020

Re: Health Officer Order for Influenza Vaccination or Masking of All Health Care Workers (HCW) During Influenza Season

Order

Pursuant to Health Officer authority under California Health & Safety Code § 120175, I hereby order all health care facilities and agencies in Santa Barbara County to develop and implement a mandatory influenza vaccination program for the 2020-2021 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 or agency may elect to expand the definition of "health care worker" to include all persons working on facility properties or for an agency that serves individuals in the community 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 2020-2021 influenza season.

For the purposes of this order, "influenza season" is defined as November 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021. If influenza surveillance data suggests that influenza season may end before or extend beyond April 30, 2021 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 or agency. This may include all facility or agency properties and locations served in the community if so determined by the facility or agency.

Signed:



Henning Ansorg, M.D.
Santa Barbara County Public Health
Officer

9-15-2020
Date



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

9/15/2020
Date