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Health & Human Services Agency
Public Health Division

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Randolph F. Snowden
Agency Director

NOTIFICATION

DATE: September 19, 2013

TO: All Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Practices, Physicians, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care Facilities and Ambulance Services in Napa County

FROM: Karen Smith, MD, MPH
Health Officer

SUBJECT: Order for mandatory influenza vaccination of all health care workers in Napa County

As Health Officer of Napa County, I am now issuing an order requiring that each and every health care facility in Napa County, of the types specified below, implement a program requiring its health care workers to receive an annual influenza vaccination, and if they decline, to wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season while working in patient care areas of that health care facility.

Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities must report the percentage of employees with direct patient contact who received the 2013-2014 seasonal influenza vaccine by December 15th, 2013. This data should be reported to the Napa County Public Health Division by fax (707-299-4479) or e-mail (cdreports@countyofnapa.org).

Rationale for Order

Influenza infection affects 5-15% of the U.S. population each year, leading to an estimated 3.1 million days of hospitalization and 36,000 deaths. Health care workers (HCWs) are both at risk for influenza and can transmit the virus to their vulnerable patients. Because influenza vaccination is generally less effective in protecting elderly and medically frail patients against influenza, vaccination of their care givers is essential to preventing transmission of influenza to these high risk groups.

A recent study published in *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology August 2013* demonstrates the effectiveness of hospital mandates in improving influenza vaccination rates of healthcare workers. Napa County joins other Bay Area counties and jurisdictions that have already mandated influenza vaccination for all health care workers.

Facilities Subject to the Order

This order applies to all hospitals, clinics, medical practices, skilled nursing facilities, other long-term care facilities and ambulance services in Napa County.

Definition of HCWs

Health care worker 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.

Duration of Order

This order is ongoing and applies to each and every influenza season unless the order is rescinded. The influenza season is defined as November 1 through March 31 of the following year. In any given year, if surveillance data demonstrates an unusual time course, I may modify the period during which the masking requirement will apply for that season.

For the purpose of this order, unless otherwise required, surgical masks are adequate.

Thank you for your help and support in protecting the residents of Napa County. For any additional questions, please contact the Napa County Public Health Division Communicable Disease Program at 707-299-1499.