



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Health & Human Services Agency
Public Health Division

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HEALTH ADVISORY

DATE: December 27, 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: Influenza activity update and reminder of Health Officer order for vaccination or masking of healthcare workers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported an increase in influenza activity nationally, with high levels already detected in several southern states. Severe respiratory illness among young and middle-aged adults in these states, including several fatal cases, has been linked to infection with influenza A 2009 pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) virus. While it is not possible to predict which influenza viruses will predominate during the entire 2013-14 influenza season, pH1N1 has been the predominant circulating virus so far; of note, pH1N1 is one component of this year's seasonal flu vaccine. **For the 2013-14 season, if pH1N1 virus continues to circulate widely, illness that disproportionately affects young and middle-aged adults may occur.**

Physicians and facilities are also reminded that California Health and Safety Code requires severe (ICU admission) and fatal cases of influenza and outbreaks of respiratory illness be reported to the local public health department.

Healthcare facilities and providers are advised to:

- Encourage everyone age 6 months and older who has not received the 2013-2014 seasonal flu vaccine to get one now.
- Encourage all persons with influenza-like illness who are at high risk for influenza complications to seek care promptly to determine if treatment with influenza antiviral medications is warranted.
 - For additional information on antiviral treatment for influenza, please refer to the following CDC Health Advisory: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/HAN/han00359.asp>.
- Ensure that all healthcare workers who have *not* received the 2013-2014 seasonal vaccine are masked when in patient care areas in accordance with Napa County Health Officer order for vaccination or masking. (<http://www.countyofnapa.org/publichealth/CD/healthalerts/>)
- Report suspected or confirmed outbreaks of influenza in your facility to the Napa County Public Health Communicable Disease Program at 707-299-1499.
- Report severe (ICU admission) and fatal cases of influenza to the Napa County Public Health Communicable Disease Program at 707-299-1499.