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Health & Human Services Agency
Public Health Division

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Howard K. Himes
Agency Director

DATE: October 2, 2017

TO: All Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Practices, Physicians, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care Facilities and EMS Providers in the County of Napa

FROM: Karen Relucio, MD
Napa County Health Officer

SUBJECT: Order for mandatory influenza vaccination or masking of all healthcare workers in Napa County

As the Health Officer of Napa County, I am renewing an order that I issued last year. This order requires 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.

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

Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities must report the percentage of employees with direct patient contact who received the 2016-2017 seasonal influenza vaccine by December 15, 2017. This information should be reported to the Public Health Division, Health and Human Services Agency by fax to (707)299-4479 OR by email to 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 and coworkers. 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.



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A study published in *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* in August 2013 demonstrates the effectiveness of hospital mandates in improving influenza vaccination rates of healthcare workers. Napa County joins other California 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 Healthcare Worker

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 the 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 April 30 of the following year. In any given year, if surveillance data demonstrates an unusual time course of influenza activity, the period during which the masking requirement may be modified for that season.

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

