



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

To: Licensed Health Care Facilities in the City of Pasadena Public Health Jurisdiction

From: Ying-Ying Goh, MD MSHS
City of Pasadena Health Officer

Date: October 28, 2015

Re: Health Officer Order for Mandatory Influenza Vaccination or Masking Program for Health Care Personnel During Influenza Season

As Health Officer of the City of Pasadena, I am issuing this Order mandating that all licensed health care facilities in Pasadena implement a program that requires Health Care Personnel (HCP) to receive an annual influenza vaccination for the current season, or, if HCP are unable or unwilling to receive an influenza vaccine, to wear a mask while working in patient care areas. This order is consistent with prior Health Officer Mandatory Influenza Vaccination Orders from the past two influenza seasons.

Influenza infection affects 5-15% of the US population every year, leading to an estimated 3.1 million days of hospitalization and 31.4 million outpatient visits. Not only are unvaccinated HCP at risk for becoming infected with influenza, they can transmit the virus to their coworkers and patients. Influenza vaccination of HCP protects patients as well as the worker who is vaccinated, and reduces employee absenteeism during influenza season.

California law requires acute care hospitals to offer free influenza vaccination on-site to their employees and to require all to be vaccinated; any employee who elects not to be vaccinated must provide the hospital with a written declaration that he or she has declined the vaccination [CA Health & Safety Code §1288.7(a)]. In addition, occupational safety regulations mandate that many types of health care facilities, including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and long-term health care facilities, make seasonal influenza vaccine reasonably available to all employees with occupational exposure and ensure that each employee who refuses the vaccine signs a statement of declining vaccination [CA Code of Regulations, title 8, §5199 (c)(6)(D)&(h)(10)]. Toward our shared goal of increasing patient safety, this Order requires masking of HCP who decline vaccination. Mandatory vaccination combined with masking policies have been shown to be highly effective in raising HCP vaccination rates above 95%.

Order:

Pursuant to my authority under §120175 of the California Health & Safety Code, I hereby order every licensed acute care hospital, skilled nursing facility, and intermediate care facility within the City of Pasadena public health jurisdiction implement a mandatory influenza vaccination program under which

HCP at such facilities receive an annual influenza vaccination for the current season or wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season while in contact with patients or working in patient-care areas.

Facilities Subject to Order

This order applies to all licensed health care facilities in the City of Pasadena public health jurisdiction including, but not limited to, hospitals, skilled nursing and long-term care facilities, intermediate care facilities, and the Public Health Department. For the purposes of this order, “licensed health care facility” shall be defined as any health care facility, place, or building licensed by the California Department of Public Health Licensing and Certification Program. However, it is strongly recommended that all health care facilities, such as physicians’ offices, voluntarily adopt these protective measures.

Definition of HCP

For the purposes of this order, “health care personnel” or “HCP” are all persons, paid and unpaid, working in a licensed health care facility subject to this order, who have direct patient contact or who work in patient-care areas. Personnel may include, but is not limited to, employees, contractors, students, and volunteers.

Duration of Order

This order is ongoing and applies to each influenza season unless the order is rescinded. The influenza season is defined as November 1 to March 31 of the following year. In any given year, if the influenza surveillance data demonstrate that the influenza season is different than November 1 to March 31, this period may be changed by a further order.

The Pasadena Public Health Department appreciates your help and support in protecting the residents of our community. For any additional questions please contact Public Health Nursing at (626) 744-6089 or visit the City of Pasadena Public Health Department website at <http://cityofpasadena.net/PublicHealth/>.