



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

To: Licensed Acute Care Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Provider Agencies in the City of Pasadena Public Health Jurisdiction

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

Date: November 5, 2020

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

In August 2019, the “Expanded Health Officer Order for Mandatory Influenza Vaccination or Masking Program for Health Care Personnel” was put into effect, pursuant to the authority under §120175 of the California Health & Safety Code. **This order continues to be in effect for the 2020-21 influenza season, defined as November 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021 and may be extended if ongoing influenza activity is observed.**

As Health Officer of the City of Pasadena, I am issuing this notification of continuation of the 2019 Order mandating that all licensed acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, and emergency medical services (EMS) provider agencies in the City of Pasadena conduct a program that requires Health Care Personnel (HCP) to receive an annual influenza vaccination for the current season, or, if HCP decline to receive an influenza vaccine, to wear a mask while working in patient care areas or in contact with patients. A mandatory influenza vaccination or masking order has been in effect in Pasadena since October 2013 and was expanded in August 2019 to include EMS healthcare personnel, for this and future influenza seasons. The continuation of this Order is a requirement in addition to all applicable COVID-19 protocols and local and state Orders in place, including universal masking.

California law requires acute care hospitals to offer free annual 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, intermediate care facilities, and EMS provider agencies, make seasonal influenza vaccine reasonably available to all employees with occupational exposure and ensure that each employee who refuses the vaccine signs a statement declining vaccination [CA Code of Regulations, title 8, §5199 (c)(6)(D)&(h)(10)].

The August 2019 Health Officer Order specified the following:

Persons Subject to Order

For the purposes of this Order, “health care personnel” are all persons working in a prehospital setting or in areas where patient care is provided in a licensed health care facility subject to this Order, or who otherwise have direct patient contact at such a facility or prehospital setting. Personnel may include, but are not limited to, paid or unpaid employees, contractors, students, and volunteers. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that HCP in other types of health care facilities, such as physicians’ offices, voluntarily adopt these protective measures.

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 April 30 of the following year. In any given year, if the influenza surveillance data demonstrate that the influenza season is different than November 1 to April 30, this period may be changed by a further order.

Reporting

If requested by the Pasadena Public Health Department, facilities/agencies must report their HCP influenza vaccination rates within the requested timeframe.

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

Attachments:

1. Influenza Vaccination for Health Care Personnel FAQ
2. Health Officer Order FAQ
3. Rationale for Mandated Influenza Immunization for Health Care Personnel in Pasadena