

PROVIDER UPDATE



El Dorado County
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
Public Health Division
931 Spring Street, Placerville, CA 95667

Please copy and distribute to
ALL health care providers at
your location.

September 5, 2018

To: Hospitals, Ambulatory and Community Clinics, Medical Practices, Public Health and Mental Health Divisions, First Responders, Long Term Care Facilities, Jails

Subject: Vaccination-or-Masking Mandate for the 2018-19 Flu Season and Later

As always, thank you for doing your part to prevent the spread of influenza. We have known for many years that vaccinating healthcare workers against influenza helps reduce influenza transmission^{1,2}. Therefore, as in previous years, per California Health and Safety Code § 120175, I am reissuing the following annual order to help reduce the incidence of influenza among healthcare workers, patients, and visitors to healthcare facilities. Please consider that vaccination is more effective than use of respiratory masks, although the latter is better than no protection, and that while influenza might be a mild illness to a healthy healthcare worker, it can be serious or fatal for some patients. Vaccination protects not only the vaccinated person. It also protects that person's patients, family, friends, and other contacts.

***Please note!** In 2017, health officers representing all California counties made a joint decision to standardize start and end dates for this mandate across the state, opting for a conservative (more protective) approach of starting on November 1 (that many counties already used). As of the 2018-19 flu season, El Dorado County has adopted the recommended November 1 start-date.*

Order: As Public Health Officer of El Dorado County, I require that every licensed healthcare facility in El Dorado County implement a program requiring all of its healthcare workers to receive annual influenza vaccinations or, if they decline, to wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season whenever having direct patient contact or working in patient care areas.

Duration of Order: This order shall begin on November 1 each year. It will remain in effect until influenza activity is clearly on the decline, as determined by El Dorado County Public Health staff who will assess influenza data throughout the season, until resuming the following influenza season. I will notify all healthcare facilities of the end date for this order as soon as it is determined each influenza season.

Facilities Subject to the Order: The vaccination and masking order applies to all licensed healthcare facilities in El Dorado County. For more information and definitions of licensed healthcare facilities, see California Health & Safety Code §§ 1200-1209 and §§ 1250-1264.

Definition of "Healthcare Worker": For the purposes of this order, "healthcare worker" is defined as a person, paid or unpaid, working in a healthcare setting who has direct patient contact or works in any patient-care area.

I appreciate your cooperation, assistance and support in your continued protection of El Dorado County residents. Feel free to contact El Dorado County Public Health at (530) 621-6320 if you have questions.

Handwritten signature of Nancy J. Williams in blue ink.

Nancy J. Williams, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer
(530) 621-6100

¹ Talbot TR, Bradley SE, Cosgrove SE, Ruef C, Siegel JD, Weber DJ. Influenza vaccination of healthcare workers and vaccine allocation for healthcare workers during vaccine shortages. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol.* 2005;26(11):882-890.

² Wilde JA, McMillan JA, Serwint J, Butta J, O'Riordan MA, Steinhoff MC. Effectiveness of influenza vaccine in health care professionals: a randomized trial. *JAMA.* 1999;281(10):908-913

