



Health Order:
Influenza Vaccination for Hospital Healthcare Workers in Solano County
Issued 28 October 2015

As Health Officer for Solano County, I am issuing an order mandating that all hospitals in Solano County require their healthcare workers to receive an influenza vaccination or, if they decline, to wear a mask during the influenza season while working in patient care areas.

Because influenza 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, it is critically important that hospital employees take preventive measures to stay healthy and continue to provide critical healthcare services to the residents and visitors of Solano County. Influenza vaccination is a preventive measure that reduces serious disease from influenza infection and decreases worker absenteeism.

State law requires that hospitals offer influenza vaccinations to employees. If employees decline vaccination they are required to sign a declination statement in lieu of vaccination. Although hospitals comply with State law, actual vaccination rates among hospital employees remain unacceptably low. Policies that require healthcare workers who decline influenza vaccinations to wear a mask have been shown to significantly increase the number of healthcare workers choosing to be vaccinated to above 95%.

This order remains in effect unless rescinded. It applies for the entire influenza season, defined as November 1 to March 31, and applies to all persons working in hospitals who have direct patient contact or who work in patient care areas.

Bela T. Matyas, MD, MPH
Health Officer/Director of Public Health



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I, as the Health Officer of Solano County, am requiring that each and every hospital in Solano County implement a program requiring its healthcare workers to either receive an influenza vaccination or wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season while working in patient care areas in that hospital.

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This order is ongoing and applies to each influenza season unless the order is rescinded.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.

Facilities Subject to the Order

This order applies to hospitals operating in Solano County.

Definition of Healthcare Workers

For the purposes of this Order, "healthcare workers" are persons, paid and unpaid, working in hospitals who have direct patient contact or who work in patient care areas.

I appreciate your help and support in protecting the residents of Solano County. For any additional questions, please contact the Division of Public Health at 707-784-8600.

Bela T. Matyas, MD, MPH

Health Officer/Director of Public Health