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August 10, 2016

TO: Licensed Acute Care Hospitals
Skilled Nursing Facilities
Intermediate Care Facilities

FROM: Jeffrey D. Gunzenhauser, M.D., M.P.H.
Interim Health Officer

SUBJECT: **CONTINUATION OF THE HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION OF HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL OR MASKING DURING THE INFLUENZA SEASON**

With the influenza season approaching, this memo is a reminder that the "Health Officer Order for Annual Influenza Vaccination Programs for Healthcare Personnel or Masking of Health Care Workers during the Influenza Season" (Order) remains in effect. This Order was first issued in October 2013 by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC/DPH) Health Officer pursuant to the authority under §120175 of the California Health and Safety Code.

The Order mandates that licensed acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and intermediate care facilities require influenza vaccination for their health care personnel (HCP) or that HCP who decline to be vaccinated must wear a mask when they are in contact with patients or working in patient-care areas during the annual influenza season. The influenza season is defined as the period from November 1 through March 31, unless continued influenza activity is ongoing. The intent of this Order is to lower the risk of transmission of influenza to patients in licensed acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities in the County.

To ensure compliance and to gain a better understanding of implementation processes, the LAC/DPH Health Facility Inspection Division will monitor implementation of the Health Officer Order during the influenza season. LAC/DPH requests that all hospitals maintain the following records:

- Influenza vaccination status for HCP including employees, licensed care practitioners, contractors, students, and volunteers
- Declination forms for influenza vaccinations

In addition, we ask that you maintain a list of healthcare associated influenza infections (onset >72 hours after admission) to evaluate the effectiveness of infection prevention at your facility. Thank you in advance for complying with our request. These data play a key role in our ability to assess our joint efforts to improve influenza prevention among high risk populations in healthcare facilities.

For your reference, a copy of the Health Officer Order that was issued in 2013 is attached, along with resources that support implementation of the Order, including an updated Frequently Asked Questions document that addresses queries received about the Order. These and additional resources are posted at: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/flu_order.htm.

Questions regarding the Order may be directed to the LAC/DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control Program at (213) 240-7941. Questions about compliance and implementation may be directed to the LAC/DPH Health Facilities Inspection Division at (626) 569-3724.

The LAC/DPH shares with all healthcare professionals and facilities in the County, the goal of our patients receiving safe and effective care. We look forward to all facilities that are subject to this Order complying fully with its requirements.

Attachments

1) 2013 Health Officer Order for Annual Influenza Vaccination Programs for Healthcare Personnel or Masking of Health Care Workers during the Influenza Season
2) Frequently Asked Questions: Health Officer Order to Vaccinate Healthcare Personnel Against the Flu
3) Rationale for Mandated Influenza Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel in Los Angeles County
4) Fact Sheet: Influenza Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel
5) Customizable Notice to Staff