



# Tuolumne County Public Health Department

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County Health Officer  
EMSA Medical Director

**To:** Health Care Facility Administrators and Staff in Tuolumne County

**Date:** October 10, 2023

**RE:** *Health Officer Order for annual influenza vaccination or masking of all health care workers (HCW) during Influenza season*

**Order:**

Pursuant to Health Officer authority under California Health & Safety Code §120175, I hereby order all health care facilities in Tuolumne County to develop and implement a mandatory Influenza vaccination program for the influenza season. The program shall require all health care workers (HCWs) to provide evidence of Influenza vaccination. If a health care worker is unable to provide such evidence, that worker shall be required to wear a surgical mask while working in patient care areas during influenza season.

**Background:**

Influenza vaccination of health care workers (HCWs) is important because it protects our HCWs and our community. Patients may not be vaccinated due to allergies or their medical condition. Vaccination of HCWs is also a key component of public health preparedness. The influenza virus is contagious at least 24 hours before symptom onset, so a seemingly “healthy” person can unknowingly infect others. The most vulnerable in our community (the elderly, children, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems) rely on health care providers and facilities to protect them from infectious disease. In consideration of this, this Health Officer Order is being issued.

Influenza vaccination can be obtained through multiple venues in our community. Call the Tuolumne County Public Health Department at 209-533-7401 for further information.

**Definitions for the purpose of this order:**

Health care workers (HCWs): All persons, including health care providers, ancillary staff, support staff, and volunteers, working in licensed health care settings.

Patient care areas: Facility administrators shall define “patient care areas” and may decide to expand the locations within a facility in which unvaccinated HCWs should wear a mask.

Licensed health care settings: As defined in California Health and Safety code sections §1200-1209 and §1250-1264. Facilities that solely provide psychiatric, mental health or chemical dependency treatment services are exempt from the mandatory vaccination requirement. Dental offices are included as licensed health care settings. A facility administrator may elect to expand the definition of “health care worker” so that it includes all persons working on facility properties and such an expanded definition is supported by the Health Officer.

Influenza vaccine: A vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the annual influenza season. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information page: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/index.html>.

Influenza season: November 1 through March 31 annually. If influenza surveillance data suggests that the influenza season may end before or extend beyond March 31, this order may be amended to shorten or extend the influenza season definition.



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Tuolumne County Health Officer and EMS Medical Director

10.10.2023

Date