



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

September 13, 2019

This letter is to inform all Fresno County acute care hospitals and long-term care facilities that the order set in place for the 2015-2016 influenza season continues in effect during the 2019-2020 season.

Influenza infection continues to account for an estimated 30,000 excess deaths in the U.S. each year. Health care workers are both at risk for contracting influenza and for transmitting the virus to their vulnerable patients.

As the Deputy Health Officer for Fresno County, I am *requiring* that each and every *acute care* hospital and long term care facility implement a program requiring its health care workers to receive an annual influenza vaccination prior to the beginning of the designated influenza season. Those who decline will be required to wear a mask for the duration of the designated influenza season while working in patient care areas within that health care facility.

As in 2015-2016 order, I am *strongly recommending* that each and *every other* health care facility in Fresno County implement a program requiring its health care workers to receive an annual influenza vaccination, or if they decline, to wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season while working in patient care areas in that health care facility.

The designated influenza season for 2019-2020 is November 15, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

To review the order set in place for the 2015-2016 year please visit our website at www.fcdph.org/healthmessages.

Sincerely,

Ken Bird, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer
Fresno County

Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

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