



County of Fresno
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
David Pomaville, Director
Dr. Ken Bird, Health Officer

August 1, 2018

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 2018-2019 season.

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

As the 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 2018-2019 is November 15, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

To review the order set in place for the 2015-2016 year please visit our website at <https://bit.ly/2JGWRzQ>.

Sincerely,

Ken Bird, MD, MPH
Fresno County Health Officer

Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

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