



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PASADENA HEALTH OFFICER ORDER

**ORDER FOR MANDATORY ANNUAL INFLUENZA AND UPDATED
COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR HEALTH CARE
PERSONNEL DURING THE RESPIRATORY VIRUS SEASON**

This Order Issued: September 25, 2024

Effective Date: November 1, 2024

Re: Licensed Acute Care Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, Emergency Medical Services Provider Agencies and Other Healthcare Facilities in the City of Pasadena Public Health Jurisdiction

As Health Officer of the City of Pasadena, I am issuing this Order mandating all licensed acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, emergency medical services (“EMS”) provider agencies, and other healthcare facilities in the City of Pasadena implement a program by which Health Care Personnel (“HCP”) are to receive an annual influenza and updated COVID-19 vaccination for the current respiratory virus season. HCP who decline to receive an influenza vaccine or updated COVID-19 vaccination, are required to sign a statement declining vaccination and are required to wear a mask while in patient care areas. It is highly recommended that staff wear a well-fitting [face covering](#) regardless of vaccination status. A mandatory influenza vaccination or masking order has been in effect in Pasadena since October 2013 and will be in effect for this and future respiratory virus seasons.

Influenza, or flu, is a highly contagious respiratory illness that causes significant burden in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) estimates that flu has resulted in 31 million illnesses, 360,000 hospitalizations, and 21,000 flu-related deaths last year alone (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu-burden/php/about/index.html>). Influenza exists all year, but in the U.S., infection rates and severe illness increase in the winter months, known as “flu season.” Studies suggest that up to 25% of health care personnel are infected with influenza each season. Not only are unvaccinated HCP at risk for becoming infected with influenza, they can also transmit the virus to their coworkers and patients. Patients in health care facilities, as well as young children, pregnant women, elderly, and persons with underlying health conditions or disabilities, are particularly vulnerable to influenza infection and subsequent complications.

Healthcare-associated respiratory infections tend to be more severe than community-acquired cases, and lead to increased hospital days and mortality for inpatients. Influenza and COVID-

19 vaccination of HCP protects patients as well as the vaccinated worker, and reduces employee absenteeism during the respiratory virus season. Influenza and COVID-19 vaccination can also reduce the risk of co-infection with other respiratory viruses. Policies combining mandatory vaccination and masking have been shown to be highly effective in raising HCP vaccination rates. The CDC and National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases conducted a panel survey of HCP and found that during the 2020-2021 influenza season, an employer's vaccination requirement was the second most commonly reported reason for vaccination.

California law requires acute care hospitals to offer free annual influenza vaccination on-site to their employees and to require all to be vaccinated; any employee who elects not to be vaccinated must provide the hospital with a written declaration that he or she has declined the vaccination [CA Health & Safety Code §1288.7(a)]. In addition, occupational safety regulations mandate that many types of health care facilities, including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, EMS provider agencies, and other healthcare facilities make seasonal influenza vaccine reasonably available to all employees with occupational exposure and ensure that each employee who refuses the vaccine signs a statement declining vaccination [CA Code of Regulations, title 8, § 5199 (c)(6)(D) & (h)(10)].

During the respiratory season, increases in circulating respiratory viruses in addition to influenza and COVID-19 (SARS-CoV 2) viruses result in increases in infections, severe illness and hospitalizations. There is also the possibility of co-infection with more than one virus, which may make illnesses more severe in high-risk individuals and the elderly. These respiratory viruses include rhinovirus (one cause of the “common cold”) and respiratory syncytial virus (“RSV”), which is the most common cause of severe respiratory illness in young children as well as a leading cause of death from respiratory illness in those aged 65 years and older. Other commonly circulating respiratory viruses include human parainfluenza viruses (“HPIV”), human metapneumovirus (“HMPV”), respiratory adenoviruses and human coronavirus. Therefore, we use the term “respiratory virus season,” rather than “influenza season.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommends that everyone 6 months and older get an [updated COVID-19 vaccine](#) to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 illness this fall and winter. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) approved an updated COVID-19 vaccine (2024-2025 Formula) for this fall and winter, and this updated vaccine is reflected in current [CDC guidance](#). HCP with a recent prior infection or COVID-19 vaccine should discuss their eligibility to receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine (2024-2025 Formula) with their provider or pharmacist.

ORDER:

Pursuant to my authority under section 120175 of the California Health & Safety Code, for the purpose of limiting the spread of influenza and COVID-19, I hereby order all Health Care Personnel (“HCP”) in Health Care Facilities described in subdivision (a) below and in Home Care Settings under home care organizations described in subdivision (b), (“High-Risk Settings”) below receive an annual influenza vaccine and receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine for the

current respiratory virus season by November 1, 2024 or sign a written declaration provided by their employer that they have declined the annual influenza and/or COVID-19 vaccination. HCP who decline or have not yet obtained the annual influenza and/or COVID-19 vaccination are required to wear a well-fitting [face covering](#) as defined in the CA Code of Regulations while in patient care areas or while in direct contact with patients. It is highly recommended that staff wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status, and masks such as KN95s, KF 94s, N95s, or respirators are [more protective](#). To the extent anything in this Order is inconsistent or conflicts with any previous Orders of the Health Officer, this Order shall control.

- a. Health Care Facilities include:
 - i. General Acute Care Hospitals
 - ii. Skilled Nursing Facilities (including Subacute Facilities)
 - iii. Intermediate Care Facilities
 - iv. Acute Psychiatric Hospitals
 - v. Adult Day Care Centers
 - vi. Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (“PACE”) and PACE Centers
 - vii. Ambulatory Surgery Centers
 - viii. Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitals
 - ix. Clinics and Doctors’ Offices (including behavioral health, surgical and dental)
 - x. Congregate Living Facilities
 - xi. Dialysis Centers
 - xii. Hospice Facilities
 - xiii. Pediatric Day Health and Respite Care Facilities
 - xiv. Residential Substance Use Treatment and Mental Health Treatment Facilities
- b. Home Care Settings include:
 - i. Home Care Organization
 - ii. Home Health Agency

Persons Subject to Order

For the purposes of this Order, “Health Care Personnel” are all persons working in a prehospital setting or in areas where patient care is provided in a licensed healthcare facility subject to this Order, or who otherwise have direct patient contact at such a facility or prehospital setting. Personnel may include, but are not limited to, paid or unpaid employees, contractors, students, and volunteers.

Duration of Order

This Order is ongoing and applies to each respiratory virus season unless the Order is rescinded. The respiratory virus season is defined as November 1 to April 30 of the following year. In any given year, if surveillance data demonstrate that the respiratory virus season is different than November 1 to April 30, this period may be changed by a further order.

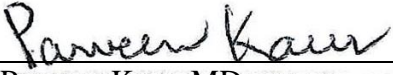
Reporting

If requested by the Pasadena Public Health Department, facilities/agencies must report their HCP influenza and COVID-19 vaccination rates within the requested timeframe.

The Pasadena Public Health Department shares with health care facilities and professionals in the city the goal that our population receives safe and effective care. We trust that all facilities and EMS provider agencies subject to this Order will comply fully and will notify their HCP of its provisions.

For any additional questions please contact the Pasadena Communicable Disease Program at (626) 744-6089 or visit the City of Pasadena Public Health Department website at <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-health/health-order/>.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Parveen Kaur, MD
Acting Health Officer, City of Pasadena

9/25/2024

Date