Order for Licensed Health Care Facilities in Monterey County to Implement
Influenza Vaccination Programs for Health Care Workers During the
2018-2019 Influenza Season

Preface
Influenza vaccination of health care workers (HCWs) protects medically fragile patients and reduces employee absenteeism during influenza season. State law requires that acute care hospitals and certain employers offer influenza vaccinations to employees or have the employee sign a declination statement if they choose not to be vaccinated. While employer compliance with the existing law has been high, vaccination rates among HCWs has historically been low.

Mandatory vaccination with masking policies in health care facilities have been shown to increase HCW vaccination rates to above 90%. In 2013, I first issued a Health Officer Order to licensed health care facilities requiring that facilities implement programs that require their HCWs to provide evidence of influenza vaccination or to wear a surgical mask while working in patient care areas during the influenza season. During the 2016-2017 influenza season, the most recent influenza season for which influenza vaccination rates among hospital health care personnel are publicly available, influenza vaccination rates ranged from 75% to 89% at local hospitals. In contrast, influenza vaccination rates ranged from 64% to 81% prior to implementation of these annual orders.

Therefore, in order to maintain a higher rate of influenza vaccination among HCWs and to protect patients from morbidity and mortality associated with influenza infection, I am issuing the following Health Officer Order.

Order
I, as Health Officer of Monterey County, do hereby order all licensed health care facilities in Monterey County to develop and implement a mandatory influenza vaccination policy and program for the 2018-2019 influenza season. The influenza vaccination program shall require a health care worker to provide evidence of vaccination with an influenza vaccine. If the health care worker is unable to provide such evidence, that worker shall wear a surgical mask while working in patient care areas during the influenza season.
Definitions
For the purposes of this order, “licensed health care facility” shall be defined as any facility, place, or building licensed by the California Department of Public Health Licensing and Certification Branch that is organized, maintained, and operated for the diagnosis, care, prevention, and treatment of human illness, physical or mental, including convalescence and rehabilitation care and including care during and after pregnancy, or for any one or more of these purposes, for one or more persons. A list of facilities licensed by the California Department of Public Health Licensing and Certification Branch can be found at: http://hfcis.cdph.ca.gov/Reports/GenerateReport.aspx?rpt=FacilityListing.

“Health care worker” shall be defined as any employed or non-employed individual who provides direct patient care or who works in a patient care area.

“Influenza vaccine” shall be defined as a vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the 2018-2019 influenza season.

“Influenza season” is defined as November 1, 2018, through April 30, 2019. If influenza surveillance data suggest that the influenza season may end before or extend beyond April 30, 2019, then this order may be amended to shorten or extend the influenza season.

“Patient care area” shall be defined and determined by the facility, in consultation with the Monterey County Health Department.

Resources
Monterey County is committed to assisting facilities that are subject to this order. Please contact the Monterey County Health Departments’ Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Program Manager at 831-755-4503.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

[Signature]
Edward L. Moreno, MD, MPH
Health Officer and Director of Public Health

[Date]
Date of Issuance of Order