



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962
(831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: (831) 454-4123

Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 28, 2014

To: Hospitals, Ambulatory and Community Clinics, Medical Practices, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-Term Care Facilities, other Health Care Facilities and Emergency Medical Service Providers

From: Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH, Health Officer, County of Santa Cruz

Subject: End of Influenza Season

Based on local influenza activity reports, I am declaring an official end to the influenza season as of March 31, 2014. While you may continue to see cases of influenza, I am assigning a specific date to the end of flu season to aid health care facilities in determining when unvaccinated employees may stop using masks.

From the current influenza season onward, the following order will be ongoing and will apply to each influenza season: At the start of each influenza season, through notification by the Health Officer, it will be mandated, that every health care facility and Emergency Medical Service provider in Santa Cruz County implement a program requiring that HCWs receive an annual influenza vaccine or, if they decline, wear a mask during the entire flu season while working in patient care areas.

Definition of HCWs

For the purpose of this requirement, “health care workers” are persons, paid and unpaid, working in health care settings who have direct patient contact or who work in patient care areas.

I appreciate your help and support in protecting the residents of Santa Cruz County. I look forward to working with you on this and other issues impacting the health of the community. For any additional questions, please contact our Communicable Disease Unit at (831) 454-4114.

