

Long Beach Department of Public Health

2018-2019 INFLUENZA SEASON

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

■ WHAT IS THE HEALTH OFFICER INFLUENZA VACCINATION AND MASKING ORDER?

The Health Officer Order mandates that all healthcare facilities must offer free influenza vaccinations to their employees and require all healthcare personnel (HCP) to be vaccinated. Any HCP who elects not to be vaccinated must wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season.

■ WHEN DOES THE HEALTH OFFICER ORDER GO INTO EFFECT?

The Health Officer Order extends from November 1 to April 30 of each year.

■ WHY IS VACCINATION AND MASKING OF HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL IMPORTANT?

These policies aim to reduce employee absenteeism during influenza season, decrease illness among personnel, and reduce transmission of influenza.

■ WHAT ARE THE NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR LONG BEACH PUBLIC HEALTH?

Beginning October 1, 2018, the Long Beach Health Department requires that ALL influenza deaths are reported, regardless of age, within 7 days.

■ HOW DO I REPORT FATAL INFLUENZA CASES?

- Complete the [Influenza Death Case History Form](#) and fax to 562.570.4374 or;
- Report via CalREDIE

■ HOW DO I REPORT AN OUTBREAK OF INFLUENZA AT MY FACILITY?

Outbreaks of influenza or influenza-like illness (ILI) should be reported IMMEDIATELY to the Epidemiology Program at 562.570.4302 during regular work hours

An outbreak is defined as one or more cases of laboratory confirmed influenza in the setting of two or more influenza-like illness within a 72-hour period.

■ HOW DO I REPORT A NOVEL INFLUENZA INFECTION?

Novel influenza infections (suspect or confirmed) should be reported IMMEDIATELY to the Epidemiology Program at 562.570.4302, or after hours, call the Public Health Duty Officer at 562.500.5537

■ WHY IS INFLUENZA REPORTING IMPORTANT?

Reporting influenza helps prevent and control outbreaks, track influenza severity, and allows for appropriate response and targeted outreach.

■ WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE HEALTH OFFICER ORDER AND INFLUENZA REPORTING?

Long Beach Health Department:
www.longbeach.gov/fluforproviders

■ WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

For questions, call the Epidemiology Program at 562.570.4302

