

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 27, 2023

TO: Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly in Contra Costa County

FROM: Ori Tzvieli, M.D. *Ori Tzvieli, MD*
Health Officer

SUBJECT: End of Influenza Season for Influenza Vaccination or Masking

I appreciate the help and support of our residential care facility partners in protecting our community from serious respiratory illnesses.

As Health Officer for Contra Costa County, **I am rescinding the September 2018 Health Officer influenza vaccination masking order that extended influenza season through April 30th of the following year.**

The original August 2014 influenza vaccination/masking order remains in effect (available here in English and Spanish), which defines influenza season as November 1st through March 31st of the following year. Therefore, for the purposes of the order, influenza season will conclude on March 31st, 2023 and resume on November 1st, 2023.

This definition of influenza season will be consistent with the influenza vaccination or masking order for licensed health care facilities in Contra Costa County.

Please note that I will issue a separate Health Officer order requiring all employees of skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to wear a well-fitting mask. Beginning April 3rd, 2023, SNFs will need to comply with this order year-round until it is rescinded. This order also applies to paramedics, emergency medical technicians, contractors, and vendors when they enter SNFs located in Contra Costa. Although masking is still highly recommended, the SNF masking order does not apply to SNF patients, SNF visitors, or other facilities such as residential care facilities for the elderly, hospitals, or clinics.

I appreciate your help and support in protecting the residents of Contra Costa County. For any additional questions, please contact our Communicable Disease Programs, Public Health Division, Contra Costa Health at (925) 313-6740.

Cc: Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino

