March 24, 2020

TO: Licensed Acute Care Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, and Emergency Services Provider Agencies in Los Angeles County

FROM: Muntu Davis, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

SUBJECT: RESCISSION OF THE HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION OF HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL OR MASKING DURING THE INFLUENZA SEASON – EFFECTIVE MARCH 24, 2020

The Los Angeles County (LAC) Health Officer has rescinded the attached September 23, 2019, "Health Officer Order for Annual Influenza Vaccination Programs for Healthcare Personnel or Masking of Health Care Workers during the Influenza Season", effective March 24, 2020. This Order applied to every licensed acute care hospital, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, and emergency medical services (EMS) provider agencies within the County of Los Angeles public health jurisdiction.

This decision to rescind the requirement for unvaccinated healthcare personnel to wear a face mask prior to April 30, 2020 is based on Los Angeles County Department of Public Health surveillance data indicating that the influenza season is projected to end by March 31 (defined as: "<5% of respiratory specimens tested at Los Angeles County sentinel surveillance laboratories are positive for influenza"). Therefore, healthcare personnel who are unvaccinated against influenza will no longer be required to wear a mask effective today, March 24, 2020.

As background, the Order mandated that healthcare personnel in the specified licensed healthcare facilities receive an annual influenza vaccination for the current influenza season or wear a face mask while in contact with patients or working in patient-care areas, for the duration of the influenza season. For the purpose of this Order, the 2019/2020 influenza season was defined as the period from November 1 to April 30.

We sincerely appreciate your assistance in implementing the Order during the 2019-20 influenza season. Your efforts have undoubtedly protected many personnel and patients from influenza illness.

ATTACHMENT: Health Officer Order for Annual Influenza Vaccination Programs for Healthcare Personnel or Masking of Health Care Workers during the Influenza Season