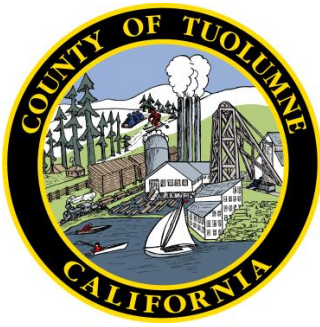




Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Kimberly Freeman, M.D.
EMS Medical Director

Katie Andrews
EMS Coordinator

20111 Cedar Road North.
Sonora, CA 95370

(209) 533-7460 • (209) 533-7406 Fax
<http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/ems>

To: Tuolumne County EMS Personnel

Date: October 10, 2023

RE: *Health Officer Order for annual influenza vaccination or masking of all health care workers (HCW) during Influenza season*

Order:

Effective during influenza season annually, all Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, as defined by California Health & Safety Code §1797.188 (a) (1), operating within the County of Tuolumne shall either receive an influenza vaccine or wear a surgical mask any time that they are working with a patient.

Background:

Influenza vaccination of health care workers (HCWs) is important because it protects our HCWs and our community. Patients may not be vaccinated due to allergies or their medical condition. Vaccination of HCWs is also a key component of public health preparedness. The influenza virus is contagious at least 24 hours before symptom onset, so a seemingly “healthy” person can unknowingly infect others. The most vulnerable in our community (the elderly, children, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems) rely on health care providers and facilities to protect them from infectious disease. In consideration of this, this Order is being issued.

Definitions:

Working with a patient: Time from entry into the building in which a patient is believed to be located until EMS personnel exit the health care facility after patient offload. If the patient is located outdoors (vehicle accident or in open area) the mask must be donned upon exiting the vehicle or within 6 feet of the patient, whichever is less. The driver of the ambulance may remove the mask during transport only if the cab is closed to the patient care area and must replace it before patient unload.

Influenza vaccine: A vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the annual influenza season. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information page: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/index.html>.

Influenza season: November 1 through March 31 annually. If influenza surveillance data suggests that the influenza season may end before or extend beyond March 31, this order may be amended to shorten or extend the influenza season definition.

Failure to comply with this order risks disciplinary action against the EMS Personnel's Accreditation/Certification. The first violation will result in the suspension of one's Accreditation/Certification for the period of one week; a second violation will result in the suspension of one's Accreditation/Certification for the period of one month; and a third violation will result in the suspension of one's Accreditation/ Certification for the period of six months.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact the EMS Coordinator at (209) 533-7460.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Freeman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kimberly Freeman, MD, MBA, CPE, FACEP, Paramedic
Tuolumne EMS Medical Director and Health Officer

Attachment: Health Officer Order for annual influenza vaccination or masking of all health care workers (HCW) during Influenza season