



Public Health

Janki Patel, MPH
Acting Director

Jennifer Osorio, REHS
Assistant Director

Shannon Bailey, MPH
Acting Assistant Director

Sharon Wang, DO, MSHPE, FIDSA
Health Officer

October 8, 2026

Dear Healthcare Facility Leadership:

As we approach the 2026–2027 respiratory virus season (November 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027), the health and safety of both healthcare personnel (HCP) and patients remain priorities. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (SBCDPH) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) remain committed to protecting all healthcare personnel, staff, patients, and the community from severe respiratory illness. To assist in these efforts, below are current practices for your review and implementation:

- **Influenza Vaccination Requirements:**
Under [Health and Safety Code Section 1288.7\(a\)](#), all licensed healthcare facilities must offer the seasonal influenza vaccination at no cost to all HCP.
- **Vaccination or Written Declination:**
All HCP must either receive the influenza vaccination or, if they choose to decline, submit a written declination statement to their facility.
- **Mandatory Reporting to CDPH:**
Facilities are required to report HCP influenza vaccination data to the [CDC's Secure Access Management Services \(SAMS\)](#), including both vaccination and declination rates.
- **Testing:**
Test symptomatic patients promptly to detect and distinguish between different respiratory viruses. Respiratory viruses are co-circulating this fall and winter, and testing will help guide management for treatable viral infections, especially for those at higher risk for severe infection. Guidance on testing can be found in the most recent [health advisory](#) from CDPH.
- **Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Healthcare Settings:**
Healthcare facilities must implement infection prevention and control measures during periods of increased transmission of respiratory viruses and in the event of an outbreak. CDPH has updated the [Source Control Guidance](#) for healthcare settings, and additional guidance can be found on the [CDC Guidance for Preventing Transmission of Viral Respiratory Pathogens in Healthcare Settings](#).

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- **Facility Policy for Declinations:**

All healthcare facilities must have a documented mitigation plan in place for those who decline vaccinations to prevent HCP from transmitting influenza to patients. Such a plan may include requiring unvaccinated HCP to wear a mask for the duration of the influenza season, reassigning work activities, or other actions appropriate to the individual facility.

Respiratory Virus Vaccination Recommendations:

I strongly recommend that clinicians to offer and administer respiratory virus immunizations (influenza, RSV, and COVID-19) to all eligible persons, with emphasis on infants and young children, older adults, pregnant people, immunocompromised individuals, those with chronic conditions, residents of skilled nursing facilities and congregate settings, and healthcare personnel.

CDPH 2026-27 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations

Age/Condition	COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
Children	• All 6–23 months • All 2–18 years with risk factors or never vaccinated against COVID-19 • All who are in close contact with others with risk factors¹ • All who choose to reduce risk of severe illness	• All 6 months and older²	• All younger than 8 months³ • All 8-19 months with risk factors
Pregnancy	• All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant or postpartum	• All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant or postpartum	• All who are 32-36 weeks gestational age^{3,4}
Adults	• All 65 years and older • All 19–64 years with risk factors • All who are in close contact with others with risk factors¹ • All who choose to reduce risk of severe illness	• All	• All 75 years and older⁴ • All 50–74 years with risk factors⁴
Healthcare Workers	• All	• All	• All who meet criteria above

1. COVID-19 vaccine is available for persons 6 months and older.

2. Two doses given at least 4 weeks apart are recommended for ages 6 months–8 years who are getting flu vaccine for the first time.

3. Protect infants with either prenatal RSV vaccine or infant dose of nirsevimab or clesrovimab.

4. RSV vaccination during pregnancy or for adults is currently recommended once rather than annually.

[2026-27 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations](#)

For more information about influenza season and vaccination requirements, please visit the following websites:

- [Department of Public Health: Influenza](#)
- [California Department of Public Health: Influenza](#)
- [Vaccines for all \(CDPH\)](#)
- [CDPH Issues Immunization Recommendations for 2026-27 Respiratory Virus Season](#)
- [CDPH: Immunize, Test, and Treat this Upcoming Respiratory Virus Season \(Influenza, RSV, and COVID-19\)](#)
- [CDPH: Source Control Guidance for Healthcare Settings](#)

I encourage you to visit the County's [Influenza-Like Illness \(ILI\) surveillance dashboard](#) to view information such as the number of ILI-related hospitalizations, ER visits, and deaths due to

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influenza-related disease. CDPH also has a [Respiratory Virus Dashboard](#) available to stay aware of respiratory virus activity in the state and regions.

If you have any questions, please contact our Communicable Disease Section at 1-800-722-4794.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting the health of our communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sharon Wang, DO, MSHPE, FIDSA

County Health Officer