



EMS Medical Director Report

Emergency Medical Care Committee

November 20, 2025



Topics



- **Respiratory Virus Season**
 - Public Health Officer Influenza Order (October 30, 2025)
 - Vaccination Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP)
- **Health Alerts**
 - Hep A, Mpox, Infant Botulism
- **Protocol Season**
- **Opioid Overdose Death Mitigation**
- **Cardiac Arrest Survival Initiatives**
 - **Revive & Survive San Diego**
 - Ready to Respond Week (October 12-18)
 - **Extracorporeal Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (ECPR) Pilot Program**



Seasonal Influenza is Here!

and so is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)



November 13, 2025

Figure 1.2. San Diego County **Influenza** Cases
(N=1,122)

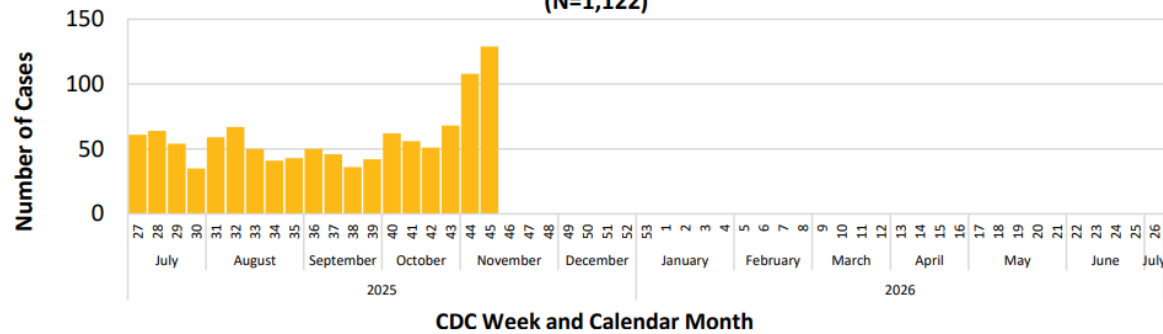


Figure 1.3. San Diego County **RSV** Cases
(N=148)

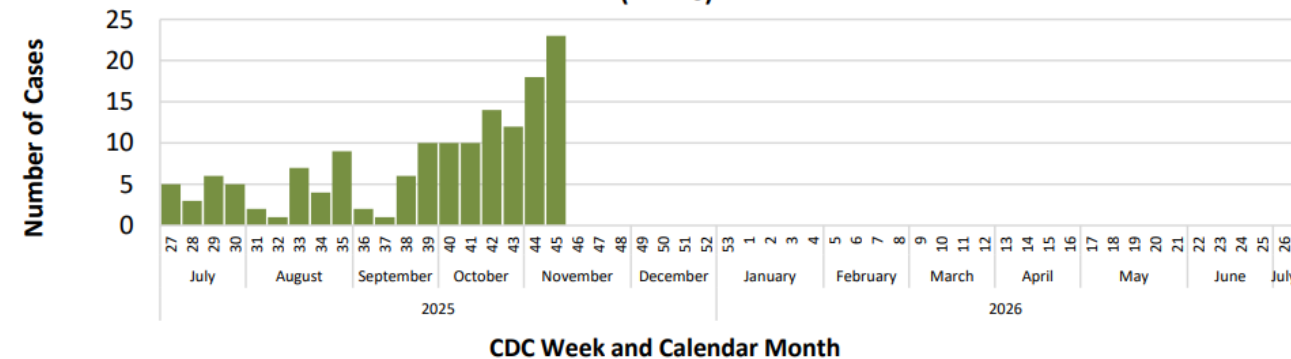
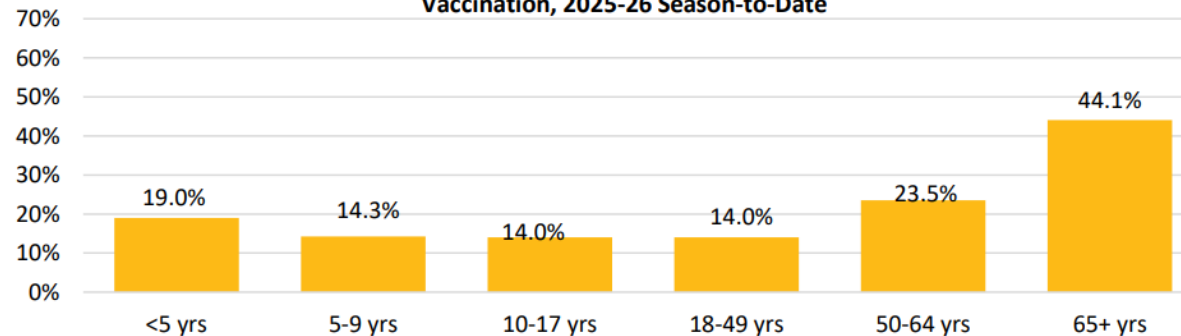


Figure 12.2. Percentage of San Diego Resident Age Groups that Received an **Influenza** Vaccination, 2025-26 Season-to-Date



Low vaccination rates

Public Health Officer Flu Order



County of San Diego

KIMBERLY GIARDINA, DSW, MSW
DEPUTY CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
5530 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 210, MS P-578
SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1261
(619) 531-5800 • FAX (619) 542-4188

ELIZABETH A. HERNANDEZ, PhD
DIRECTOR
SAYONE THIMALOLIPAVAN, MD, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

(Masking or Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel During Annual Influenza Season)

Persons with chronic medical conditions, infants and children, seniors, and pregnant women are at greater risk for severe influenza-related illnesses and deaths. All healthcare personnel are at risk for both contracting influenza and transmitting the virus to their vulnerable patients. Patients in healthcare facilities are especially vulnerable to influenza.

Masking and/or vaccination of healthcare personnel protects patients and reduces employee absenteeism during influenza season. Since 2014, the Health Officer of the County of San Diego (Health Officer) has mandated masking in healthcare settings and for healthcare professionals during annual influenza seasons, unless they have received a current influenza vaccine by November 1, 2025.

The Health Officer therefore ORDERS pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 120175:

1. Healthcare personnel in licensed acute care hospitals, ambulatory and community clinics, emergency medical service agencies, long-term care and skilled nursing facilities, and private physician practices are to wear a mask for the duration of influenza season while in contact with patients or working in patient care areas.
2. For purposes of this Order, "healthcare personnel" are all persons, including paid and unpaid employees, contractors, students, and volunteers, who work in areas where patient care is provided in a licensed or unlicensed facility, or who, otherwise, have direct contact with patients.
3. Healthcare personnel with an up-to-date seasonal influenza vaccination are exempt from this Order.
4. This Order supersedes any prior Order regarding this subject and shall remain in effect for this influenza season, and every year thereafter unless otherwise rescinded or superseded by the Health Officer.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Sayone Thimalolipavan, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer
County of San Diego

Dated: October 30, 2025

Resources – For additional information, visit:

- www.sandiegocounty.gov/respiratoryviruses
- [Influenza Prevention: A Guide for Healthcare Personnel](#)

Questions may be directed to the County of San Diego Immunization Unit at (866) 358-2966 or email to izinfo.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov.

- San Diego County Health Officer Flu Order
 - During flu season, unless vaccinated, healthcare personnel, **including EMS**, must wear a mask when involved in patient care
 - October 30, 2025
 - Public Health Officer, Dr. Sayone Thimalolipavan, updated the Order to include start date of **November 1**
 - **Current Order remains in effect until rescinded or superseded by Health Officer**

Vaccination LOSOP from EMSA

Accepting Participation Requests

- Paramedic and EMT vaccine administration
- CoSD EMS Medical Director currently authorizing COVID-19 and influenza vaccination
 - For adults and children
 - Possible future expansion, e.g., hepatitis A, mpox, measles
- Participating agencies (seven so far!)
 - American Medical Response
 - Chula Vista Fire Department
 - Falck Mobile Health Corp.
 - Lakeside Fire Protection District
 - National City Fire Department
 - San Diego County Fire
 - Santee Fire Department



Other Infectious Diseases & Toxins



Health Alerts

- [Hepatitis A Cluster and Increased Mpox Cases in San Diego County](#)
- [Health Alert: Outbreak of Infant Botulism Linked to ByHeart Infant Formula](#)
 - Botulism is a bacteria that produces a toxin
 - Signs and symptoms
 - Constipation
 - Poor head control
 - Difficulty feeding (sucking and swallowing)
 - A weak and altered cry
 - Diminished facial expression
 - Other signs of muscle weakness



Opioid Overdose Death Mitigation

Accepting Participation Requests for LBN and Bup LOSOP Pilot

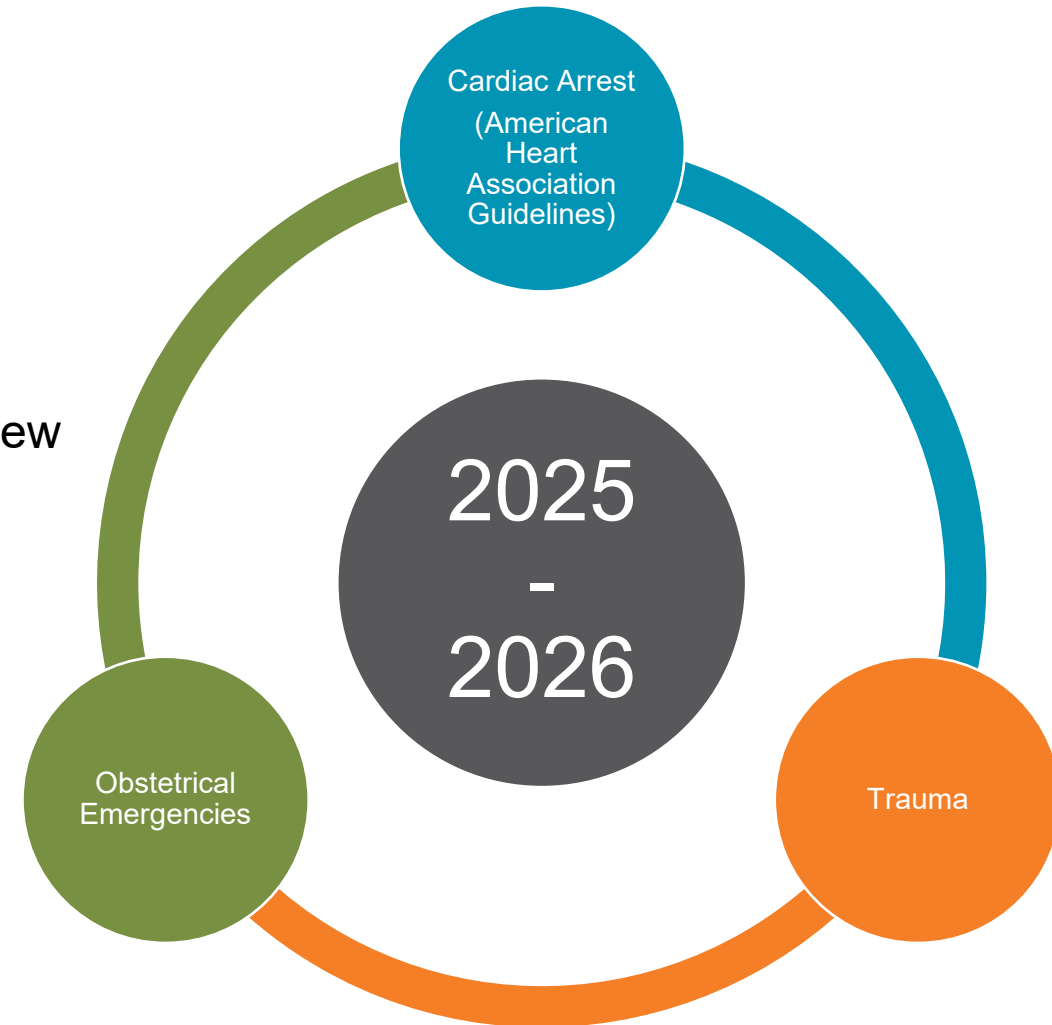
- [2025 Annual Report Card](#)
 - County overdose deaths decreased by 21% in one year
 - 1,203 deaths in 2023 → 945 deaths in 2024
 - However, 2024 rate is just over double the rate of 2015
- [Overdose Surveillance Dashboard](#)
 - In 2024, 541 people died from *opioid overdoses* in San Diego County
 - Fentanyl contributed ~52% of deaths
 - Combined drugs (person unaware taking fentanyl)
- **You can make a difference!**
 - Participate in **Leave Behind Naloxone** and **Buprenorphine** Programs



Protocol Season

EMS Protocol Workgroup (*new this year!*)

- Community Engagement
 - August 29 to **October 1, 2025**
- Protocol Workgroup Formed and Convened
 - Priority ranking
 - 2025-2026 protocol cycle drafts under review
- Proposed updates examples:
 - Cardiac
 - Crashing patient (next cycle)
 - Obstetrical emergencies
 - Addition of magnesium sulfate
 - Preeclampsia/Eclampsia
 - Trauma
 - Trauma Decision Algorithm



Revive & Survive San Diego

Partnership between County of
San Diego County EMS and UC San Diego SPH

Goal: One Million

689,086 trained

since January 2024

Read to Respond Week (October 12-18) **Sidewalk CPR Success**

Hosted 31 hands-only CPR training events
Trained 3,387 people, including Red Cross certifications

revivesurvive.ucsd.edu



UC San Diego
HERBERT WERTHEIM
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HUMAN LONGEVITY SCIENCE



ECPR Pilot Program

- **Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center**
 - New participant went live on November 3
 - Now have 5 receiving centers
 - Elevates **Health Equity** goal with better coverage in south county
- **Survivor Reunions Ongoing!**



Questions?

