



# County of San Diego

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## 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regarding this subject and shall remain in effect for this influenza season, and every year thereafter unless otherwise rescinded or superseded by the Health Officer.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 Thialolipavan, MD, MPH  
Public Health Officer  
County of San Diego

Dated: October 30, 2025

### Resources – For additional information, visit:

- [www.sandiegocounty.gov/respiratoryviruses](http://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](mailto:izinfo.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov).