



September 4, 2020

**To:** Administrators and Infection Control Practitioners  
of San Mateo County Skilled Nursing, Long-Term Care  
and Residential Care Facilities

**Re:** High-Dose Influenza Vaccine for Residents and Staff Age 65 Years and Older

San Mateo County Health System recommends that long-term care facilities order and administer **high-dose influenza vaccine to eligible residents and staff members age 65 years and older**. If you have already ordered influenza vaccine for this year, high or standard dose, administer the vaccine that you ordered and plan to order high dose vaccine next season for eligible residents and staff members.

Please note that high-dose vaccine should be ordered *in addition to* sufficient supplies of standard dose vaccine for residents and staff members under 65 years of age. Maintaining high rates of seasonal influenza vaccine coverage among residents and staff members in long-term care facilities is the best strategy for preventing cases and outbreaks of influenza.

Reputable sources noted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that:

1. High dose vaccine produces a stronger immune response (i.e., higher antibody levels) among person 65 years or older.<sup>1</sup>
2. High dose vaccine was 24.2% more effective in preventing influenza infection in adults 65 years of age and older compared to standard dose vaccine.<sup>1</sup>
3. High dose vaccine can reduce the number of hospital admissions for people aged 65 years or older, especially those living in long-term care facilities.<sup>2</sup>

Also, please note that most vaccines for the 2020-21 season will be quadrivalent.<sup>3</sup> The components are influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, influenza A(H3N2), influenza B/Victoria lineage, and influenza B/Yamagata lineage.

Additional information about high-dose seasonal influenza vaccine is available on the [CDC website](http://www.cdc.gov) and the [FDA website](http://www.fda.gov).

If you have questions, the Communicable Disease Control Program is available Monday-Friday 8:00AM-5:00PM by phone at 650-573-2346. Please remember that this number is intended for use by Skilled Nursing, Long Term Care and Residential Care facilities and should not be disseminated further. You may also send an email to [SMCCDCControl@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCCDCControl@smcgov.org) for non-urgent consults.

Thank you,

**Original signed by Scott Morrow, MD, MPH, MBA**

Scott Morrow, MD, MPH, MBA  
San Mateo County Health

<sup>1</sup> [Efficacy of High-Dose versus Standard-Dose Influenza Vaccine in Older Adults](#) DiazGranados, Carlos A. et al. The New England Journal of Medicine, 2014; 371:635-645

<sup>2</sup> [Comparative effectiveness of high-dose versus standard-dose influenza vaccination on numbers of US nursing home residents admitted to hospital: a cluster-randomised trial](#) Gravenstein, Stefan et al. The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, 2017, Volume 5, Issue 9, 738-746

<sup>3</sup> [Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2020–21 Influenza Season](#) Grohskopf LA, Alyanak E, Broder KR, et al. MMWR Recomm Rep 2020;69(No. RR-8):1–24

