

July 23, 2018

Attention: Administrators and Infection  
Control Practitioners at 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

The San Mateo County Communicable Disease (CD) Control Program has received questions from long-term care facilities regarding annual influenza vaccine options that offer the most protection for residents and staff.

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. 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.

Recent publications 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>

Additional information about high-dose seasonal influenza vaccine is available on the [CDC website](#) and the [FDA website](#).

If you have questions, the Communicable Disease Control Program is available Monday-Friday 8:00AM-5:00PM by phone at 650-573-2346 or for non-urgent consults at [SMCCDControl@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCCDControl@smcgov.org).

Thank you,

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

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

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<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 , Volume 5 , Issue 9 , 738 - 746

