



August 8, 2022

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**. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [preferentially recommends](#) any of the following three flu vaccines for these individuals: Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent, Flublok Quadrivalent and Flud Quadrivalent.

Also order 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.¹
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.¹
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.²

Also, please note that ALL vaccines for the 2022-23 season will be quadrivalent.³ The components are influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, influenza A(H3N2), influenza B/Austria lineage, and influenza B/Yamagata lineage.

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

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 SMCCDControl@smcgov.org for non-urgent consults.

Thank you,

/Signed/

Dated: August 8, 2022

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San Mateo County Health

¹ [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

² [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

³ Merced-Morales A, Daly P, Abd Elal AI, et al. Influenza Activity and Composition of the 2022-23 Influenza Vaccine — United States, 2021-22 Season. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022;71:913-919.

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