



COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

January 29, 2019

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Imperial County Reports Two Influenza-Associated Deaths

Two deaths due to influenza have been reported to date during the 2018-2019 flu season in Imperial County.

The most recent case was a 53-year-old man who was ill with pneumonia. He was positive for influenza A. It is unknown whether he had been vaccinated.

The first case was reported in late November in a 63-year-old woman with multiple underlying health issues. Laboratory testing confirmed influenza A virus. The individual had not received flu vaccine this season, according to hospital records.

Last season, influenza was responsible for a total of seven deaths countywide. A total of 119 deaths have been reported statewide to date. At this time last year, there were 97 deaths reported.

Influenza is continuing to circulate in Imperial County. To date, all confirmed cases have been influenza A H1N1. Flu activity is widespread statewide.

One outbreak has been reported among inmates at a local prison in Imperial County; five cases were identified. Two elementary schools in Brawley also reported clusters of confirmed flu cases before winter break.

Vaccination against influenza is recommended for all persons six months of age and older, including health-care personnel.

Vaccine is now available throughout the community including doctor's offices, the Public Health Department, and local pharmacies. The cost for the flu vaccine is \$5 at the health department.

For more information regarding the flu vaccine, contact the Public Health Department's Immunization Program at (442) 265-1394 or email jovanaaraujo@co.imperial.ca.us

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