



COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

February 14, 2019

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Three Influenza-Associated Deaths Reported

Another death due to influenza was reported in early February, bringing the total number of influenza-associated deaths in Imperial County to three so far in the 2018-2019 flu season.

A 64-year-old woman who was hospitalized in San Diego died from complications of influenza. It is unknown whether she had any underlying medical conditions or if she had been vaccinated against influenza.

Last season, influenza was responsible for a total of seven deaths countywide.

Since the start of the flu season, a total of 181 flu-associated deaths have been reported statewide. At this time last year, 163 deaths were reported in California.

Influenza is continuing to circulate in Imperial County. To date, all confirmed cases have been influenza A. Flu activity continues to be widespread locally, statewide, and across the nation.

Vaccination against influenza is recommended for everyone six months of age and older, including health-care personnel. Vaccination is especially important for people who are at high risk of developing serious complications from influenza. They include:

- People with chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes and lung disease, even if symptoms are under control
- Pregnant women
- People 65 years and older
- People who live with or care for others who are at higher risk

Vaccine is available throughout the community including doctor's offices, the Public Health Department, and local pharmacies. The cost for flu vaccine is \$5 at the health department. For information, contact the Immunization Program at (442) 265-1394 or by email at jovanaaraujo@co.imperial.ca.us