



COUNTY OF IMPERIAL  

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**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

February 6, 2020

**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

**Imperial County Reports Three More Influenza-Associated Deaths**

Three additional deaths due to influenza were reported in Imperial County, bringing the season's total to four deaths. The cases were 19, 39 and 64 years of age; two of the three had underlying medical conditions. It is unknown whether any of the individuals were vaccinated against influenza.

Last season, influenza was responsible for five deaths countywide.

Since September 29, 2019, 211 influenza-associated deaths have been reported in California, including seven pediatric deaths.

Influenza continues to circulate at higher levels in Imperial County. Influenza A (H1N1) virus now predominates in the county and statewide, but influenza B (Victoria) viruses continue to circulate. Flu activity remains widespread in California.

Influenza (flu) is a contagious viral respiratory illness. It can cause mild to severe illness. Serious outcomes of flu infection can result in hospitalization or death. Some people, such as older people, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk of serious flu complications. The best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated every year.

When indicated, antiviral treatment should be started as soon as possible after illness onset, ideally within 48 hours of symptom onset. However, antiviral treatment might have some benefits in patients with severe, complicated or progressive illness and in hospitalized patients when started after 48 hours of illness onset.

Vaccination against influenza is recommended for all persons six months of age and older, including health-care personnel. Children 6 months - 8 years of age getting vaccinated for the first time, and those who have only gotten one dose of flu vaccine previously, should get two doses of flu vaccine this season – spaced at least 4 weeks apart. It can take about two weeks after the second dose for protection against flu to begin.

Vaccine is 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 about the flu vaccine, contact the Public Health Department's Immunization Program at (442) 265-1394 or email [jovanaaraujo@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:jovanaaraujo@co.imperial.ca.us)

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