

**Colorado Hospital Association Resolution in
Support of Requiring Annual Influenza Vaccinations for all Healthcare
Providers**

WHEREAS, Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that can cause mild to severe illness and at times can lead to death;

WHEREAS, Healthy persons infected with the influenza can transmit it to people at higher risk for complications;

WHEREAS, Complications of the influenza include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma or diabetes;

WHEREAS, Healthcare providers with medical conditions who are not vaccinated against the influenza put patients and other healthcare workers at a higher risk of severe complications from influenza;

WHEREAS, Healthcare personnel are defined as all persons whose occupation involves contact with patients or contaminated material in a healthcare, home healthcare, or clinical laboratory setting. Healthcare personnel are engaged in a range of occupations, many of which include patient contact even though they do not involve direct provision of patient care, such as dietary and housekeeping services. The term healthcare personnel includes not only employees of the organization or agency, but also contractors, clinicians, volunteers, students, trainees, clergy, and others who may be in contact with patients.

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that healthcare personnel and persons in training for healthcare professions should be vaccinated annually against influenza. These include physicians, nurses and other workers in both hospital and outpatient-care settings, including medical emergency-response workers (paramedics and emergency medical technicians) employees of nursing homes and long-term care facilities who have contact with patients or residents;

WHEREAS, Efforts to increase vaccination coverage among healthcare providers using mandatory vaccination policies are supported by various national accrediting and professional organizations, including the Infectious Diseases Society of America;

WHEREAS, the Colorado Hospital Association is committed to patient safety and quality healthcare for all Coloradans:

Be it therefore resolved that the Colorado Hospital Association recommends the following:

All CHA member hospitals and health systems should adopt a mandatory influenza policy and provide influenza vaccination to all healthcare personnel such that all healthcare personnel are required to provide: 1) annual documentation of influenza immunization; OR 2) documentation from a licensed physician indicating evidence-based *medical* contraindication against influenza vaccination AND be required to wear a surgical mask at all times while on the premises of the health care organization.

Documentation is required to be part of the healthcare personnel record and evaluated annually for applicability. In the event that healthcare personnel do not receive an influenza vaccination annually due to evidence-based medical contraindication, the healthcare personnel should be required to wear a surgical mask from the point of entry into the hospital and throughout the duration of their shift without exception.

Approved by the CHA Board of Trustees on May 20, 2011