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MEMORANDUM

TO: Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly

FROM: William B. Walker, M.D., Health Officer 

DATE: March 28, 2017

SUBJECT: End of Influenza Season for Influenza Vaccination/Masking Order

I appreciate your help and support in protecting the residents of Contra Costa County. As defined by the influenza vaccination/masking order for residential care facilities for the elderly (<http://cchealth.org/flu/pdf/Flu-Memo-Assisted-Living-Facilities-2014.pdf>), the influenza season will end on March 31 for this season and will resume on November 1, 2017.

California surveillance data indicate that the predominant strains during the 2016-2017 influenza season were ones matched by the seasonal vaccine. Regional influenza disease data show a sharp rise in influenza disease activity in December, which was one to two months earlier than past influenza seasons. Influenza seasons can vary in arrival, duration, and severity. Routinely vaccinating your patients and staff as soon as influenza vaccine is available can help protect them when disease activity peaks early in the season.

For questions about vaccine preventable diseases such as influenza or to report a possible disease outbreak, please contact our Communicable Disease Programs, Public Health Division, Contra Costa Health Services at (925) 313-6740.

cc: Board of Supervisors
David Twa

