

# Updated Recommendations for Prevention & Control of Influenza in SNF During the COVID-19 Pandemic

CDPH Weekly SNF Infection Prevention Webinar  
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# **Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Influenza in California Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) during the COVID- 19 Pandemic**

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)  
Updated October 2020

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/RecsForPreventionControl Flu inCA SNFsDuringCOVID FINAL 100120.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/RecsForPreventionControl%20Flu%20inCA%20SNFsDuringCOVID%20FINAL%20100120.pdf)

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# Preparing for Influenza Season During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- SNF residents at increased risk for severe disease, hospitalization, and death from infections caused by influenza viruses and SARS-CoV-2
- Potential for concurrent COVID-19 and influenza outbreaks in SNF
- Essential for SNFs to **optimize all available effective influenza prevention and outbreak control interventions**, including:
  - **Influenza vaccination of SNF residents and healthcare personnel (HCP)**
  - **Prompt initiation of antiviral therapy and chemoprophylaxis when influenza is identified**

# Co-circulation of Influenza and SARS-CoV-2

Overlap of clinical presentations makes it difficult to manage residents based on symptoms alone

- **Test symptomatic residents for both influenza and SARS-CoV-2**, even when an outbreak of either pathogen has been established
- Implement transmission-based precautions - use COVID-19 Transmission-based precautions:
  - For residents with suspected influenza while test results are pending in a facility without COVID19 cases, in green (COVID-19 negative, unexposed) areas, and
  - For residents with suspected or confirmed influenza who are located in red (COVID-19 confirmed) or yellow areas (COVID-19 exposed or observation)
- Determine resident room placement while **avoiding movement of residents between COVID-19 cohorts**