



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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TO: Marin County Healthcare Providers

RE: Winter Virus Surge

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Situation Update

Due to early and increasing activity of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and influenza in Marin County, as well as an uptick in COVID-19 cases, which are all expected to rise in the coming weeks, there is concern over the region's hospital resources for both adults and children.

In response, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued an [Early Respiratory Syncytial Virus and Seasonal Influenza Activity Health Advisory](#) in addition to an [All Facilities Letter on Guidance for Response to Surge in Respiratory Viruses among Pediatric Patients](#).

Guidance

Marin County Public Health is requesting that healthcare providers take the following actions to reduce emergency room and hospital visits:

- Promote and enhance access to seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccines and updated boosters for eligible patients.
- Counsel patients to take everyday actions that can stop the spread of viruses, including masking; handwashing; covering coughs and sneezes; and staying home when sick.
- Protect emergency department resources by providing letters and as needed for school or work absences at patient request.
- Avoid unnecessary referrals to the emergency department, especially for testing that could occur elsewhere.
- Prepare for increased outpatient demand for care associated with increased seasonal viral infections, and expand access through extended hours, weekend clinics, increased staffing, and/or virtual assistance.

Thank you for your continued commitment to caring for your patients during these challenging times. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact marinCD@marincounty.org.