

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



Influenza Outbreaks Occurring at Post-Secondary Institutions November 19, 2021

Key Messages

- <u>Large influenza outbreaks are occurring at post-secondary institutions in the United States.</u>
- Transmission is likely to increase over the next months.
- Colleges and universities should continue to promote prompt influenza vaccination of students and staff to prevent influenza outbreaks before and after winter break.
- Influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine can be coadministered.
- Colleges and university health centers should test for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 in patients with respiratory illnesses. Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 multi-plex testing should be pursued when feasible.
- Persons who test positive for influenza should stay home until 24 hours after resolution of fever. Persons who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 should <u>isolate</u> for 10 days after symptom onset (or date of positive test if no symptoms are present).
- Besides getting immunized, other everyday actions can stop the spread of respiratory viruses:
 - Continue to wear a mask <u>when recommended or required in high-risk</u> settings.
 - Stay away from people who are sick.
 - Stay home when sick for at least 24 hours after symptoms go away.
 - Cough or sneeze into your elbow, arm, or disposable tissue. If disposable tissue is used, use hand sanitizer, or wash hands afterwards.
 - Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - See our <u>Tips for Protecting Yourself and Others This Holiday Season</u> for additional recommendations.

For more information on influenza

- Increasing Flu Activity in Some States, Especially Among Young Adults | CDC
- <u>Campuses Battle Severe Flu Outbreaks</u> (Inside Higher Ed)
- Influenza (ca.gov)
- Influenza (Flu) | CDC
- Who Needs a Flu Vaccine and When | CDC
- People at Higher Risk of Flu Complications | CDC
- What You Should Know About Flu Antiviral Drugs | CDC