



Health Advisory

To: Glenn County Clinicians and Health Care Providers
From: Laura Medina, Assistant Deputy Director, Public Health
Date: November 14, 2022
RE: RSV and Pediatric Surge

Please distribute to all appropriate staff

Guidance for Response to Surge in Respiratory Viruses among Pediatric Patients

An early wave of RSV activity recently hitting levels similar to seasonal peaks in prior years, and circulation of other respiratory viruses has led to increased hospitalizations among infants and young children and has contributed to stresses in the pediatric healthcare delivery system in California and across the US.

Pediatric available bed capacity has been decreasing over recent weeks in CA. Influenza activity in California has also started early with statewide status moving from “low” to “moderate” activity and high levels in southern California, with the predominant strain (Influenza A H3N2) generally associated with more severe influenza seasons. COVID-19 activity is also increasing as noted by increases in wastewater surveillance and recent increases in case rates, test positivity, and statewide new admissions increase of almost 16% over the last week.

In addition, the relatively mild seasons for flu and RSV over the past two years likely leaves more susceptible children who have lower immunity as a result of fewer exposures. Multiple respiratory viruses, including influenza and COVID-19, are expected to increase in the coming months, further stretching California hospital resources for both adults and children.

Please refer to [AFL 22-23](#) issued November 11th. In summary, this AFL provides guidance for facilities to address surge response in pediatric patients with respiratory viruses, specifically:

- This AFL outlines the temporary waiver of specific regulations and statutes during the COVID-19 State of Emergency related to use of space.
- This AFL also outlines the program flexibility process that allows flexibility from regulatory requirements.
- This AFL also provides guidance to facilities on planning for and responding to pediatric surge related to RSV and other respiratory viruses

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Additionally, as facilities are gearing up for potential pediatric surges due to respiratory illnesses, the following items should be monitored for possible disruptions due to increased demand include the following items:

- Nasal cannulas (for which pediatrics has multiple sizes)
- Antivirals
- Fluids
- Pediatric ventilators
- Treatments like palivizumab
- Oxygen
- Pediatric intubation supplies
- Desitin and diapers
- Pediatric personal protective equipment (PPE), including N95s

In addition, albuterol inhalation solution was added to the FDA drug shortage list on October 25th. Further, amoxicillin powder for oral use and tracheostomy supplies are both short supply items. The FDA has released [guidance](#) on reusing tracheostomy tubes or appropriate substitutions. For a complete list of FDA drug shortage items, please visit: [FDA Drug Shortages](#).

Please reach out to the GCPH MHOAC program at mhoac@countyofglenn.net for further guidance or assistance, as needed.