

Health, Housing & Community Services Department Public Health Officer Unit Communicable Disease Prevention & Control Program Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH Health Officer

Health Alert

Influenza and COVID-19 Update and Therapeutics Survey September 27, 2022

The purpose of this health alert is to provide updated guidance around influenza and COVID-19 for the fall and winter:

Influenza

 Influenza is now circulating in Berkeley. We recommend all eligible residents receive their flu vaccine as soon as possible. Learn more about influenza at the California Department of Public Health website.

COVID-19

- Providing COVID-19 therapeutics to eligible individuals reduces risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19.
 - Please help us to ensure timely and appropriate access to therapeutics by filling out this <u>brief anonymous survey</u> by Wednesday, October 5th.
- To address inequities in COVID-19 therapeutic prescription rates, CDPH is now offering <u>free telehealth visits to uninsured and</u> <u>underinsured Californians</u> who are symptomatic and have tested positive for COVID-19. For providers caring for medically underserved populations this new service may be a valuable asset.
- COVID-19 bivalent boosters are now widely available, they can be coadministered with the flu vaccine, and are an important means of preventing complications from COVID-19 infection and reducing virus transmission in our community. Please encourage your patients to get them.