



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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## **PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY**

**Date:** September 18, 2020

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### **Test Symptomatic Patients for Both COVID-19 and Influenza**

As influenza begins to circulate in California, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department is asking health care providers to test symptomatic patients, especially children, for both COVID-19 and influenza. COVID-19 and influenza can present with similar symptoms, including fever, cough, body aches, chills, and other symptoms.

Testing may include viral or respiratory pathogen panels or platforms that specifically test for both influenza and COVID-19. If ordering testing for both COVID-19 and influenza through the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Lab, please consider either the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (Order #6310) or both the SARS-COV-2 Amplification Test (Order # 6860) and Influenza RT-PCR (Order # 50000).

More information regarding combined tests for COVID-19 and influenza may be found at: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/multiplex.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/multiplex.html).

Symptomatic patients should self-isolate until they receive negative COVID-19 test results or, if they test positive for COVID-19, should isolate until they are fully recovered.

Both COVID-19 and influenza can result in severe illness and complications. Those at highest risk include older adults, people with certain underlying medical conditions, and people who are pregnant.

For healthy children, the risk of complications is higher for flu compared to COVID-19. However, infants and children with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for both flu and COVID-19. School-aged children infected with COVID-19 are at higher risk of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a rare but severe complication of COVID-19.

For more information, contact Rick Rosen at the details above or visit [www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm).

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