



JANUARY 4, 2024

Seneca Healthcare District Board of Directors Meeting

CNO Report

COVID and Other Public Health Updates:

Plumas County COVID-19 By the Numbers:

- ALL COUNTIES in California currently are listed with a COVID-19 hospital admission level = **LOW**. See link to CDC Covid Data Tracker:

[CDC COVID Data Tracker: Maps by Geographic Area](#)

A recent CDPH Health Advisory discusses use of COVID-19 therapeutic agents:

- There is an ample supply of COVID-19 therapeutic agents, but they have been underused – especially among populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including communities of color, low-income communities, and residents of long-term care facilities. Studies have shown that COVID-19 treatments reduce the risk for hospitalization and death among individuals with varying illness severity and risk factors.
- This health alert aims to remind providers that all symptomatic patients with a positive COVID-19 test should be evaluated for treatment with one of the U.S. National Institutes of Health recommended treatment options.
- While previously available free of charge, patients will start to see cost-sharing and co-pays for all COVID-19 medications (like all prescribed drugs) once the U.S. Government (USG) purchased product supply has run out. This will vary by geographic location and pharmacy, but patients should NOT be charged for USG purchased product if it is still available.
- The commercial price charged to patients and insurance will vary. If accessing service from an out-of-network provider, you may be charged cost sharing, such as a co-pay or co-insurance, or it may not be covered at all. As an example, a patient could be charged up to \$1,400 for a course of Paxlovid if not obtained in-network.
- Seneca will not carry Paxlovid on the Formulary. It is meant to be an outpatient therapy only, so prescriptions will need to be filled elsewhere.

Flu Season:

Seneca's Infection Prevention team reported that over 90% of our staff have received the flu vaccine this season which is outstanding. Those who have declined the vaccine will need to wear surgical masks while inside of Seneca buildings from 11/16/23 until public health declares an end to flu season.

Medical Equipment Planning (early procurement):

More information to be shared on January 25, 2024 Board meeting.

Nursing Recruitment and Workforce Concerns:

Clinical Lab Scientist (CLS) Manager has given notice of impending retirement. Several interviews have been conducted and one on-site interview is planned for January 4, 2024.

A new LVN has been hired to fill a full-time float position.

RN recruitment continues to be a high priority. Due to several shortages over the last month, mandatory clinical shifts were required of all RNs.

Regulatory Updates:

A 3-member survey team arrived unannounced to the Seneca campus on Monday December 11, 2023. This was the anticipated annual survey of our LTC.

The survey team was made up of three registered nurses. The team completed their survey on Thursday, December 14, 2023. There were two very minor findings which have already been corrected. The surveyors were very complimentary of our staff and facility.

12/19/23: CDPH Life/Safety surveyor arrived unannounced. There were a few minor findings that included the use of a door stop and some doors that did not latch fully. These findings were immediately corrected.

Upcoming Anticipated Regulatory Surveys:

Laboratory: Anticipated mid-January.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Cline, MSN, RN, PHN

Chief Nursing Officer