



May 1, 2009 Update # 8

Swine Flu H1N1 (SIV) Infections - Update # 8 May 1, 2009

Guidance for Outpatient Care Providers

EDUCATION (Staff and Patients)

- Information about SWINE FLU H1N1.
 - Health department information line updated daily 360-709-3080.
 - www.co.thurston.wa.us/health
 - www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/
- The best way to prevent disease transmission is to cover cough, wash hands, stay home when ill, and avoid crowds. Practice good hygiene.
- Ask patients with respiratory illness to stay home when ill, to mask or cover their cough while in the office, and encourage them to do so in any public setting.
- Disease is transmitted via droplets. Staying >3 feet away from someone who is ill with influenza will decrease exposure.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLANNING

- Use signage at clinic entrances to discourage ill clients from walking in unannounced.
- If possible, segregate ill patients from routine patients in a separate waiting area.
- Enforce standard and droplet infection control precautions – mask and tissues.

REQUIRE PATIENTS

- Have all symptomatic patients use a surgical mask.
- Encourage patients to call before coming in for evaluation.
- Remind patients to cover their cough, use a mask (or hankies, tissue) to cover their cough.

REQUIRE STAFF

- Enforce standard and droplet infection control precautions. Require fastidious handwashing between patients or make hand sanitizer use ubiquitous.
- Activate policies to facilitate home isolation or quarantine of sick or exposed staff.
- All staff should wear N-95 mask (or mask with face shield) when dealing with patients with respiratory illness or patients who have been exposed to influenza.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
412 LILLY RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470 INFORMATION: (360) 867-2533
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PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

- Report unusual cases of influenza or influenza-like illness to the health department **360-786-5470**.
- Keep in daily communication with public health, hospital, and emergency management. Designate a staff member to take responsibility of this function. Lines of communication will be set up under emergency management.
- You will be getting daily updates. You can also find them on line at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health
- The following will be updated as soon as available:
 - Appropriate use of public health stock of antiviral medication
 - Appropriate use of masks
 - Guidance for school closure

Report all suspect cases to 24 hour recorded line at 360-786-5470
