

SUBJECT: MANAGING INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS	REFERENCE #1009
DEPARTMENT: FACILITYWIDE	PAGE: 1 OF: 6
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

POLICY:

The medical and professional staff will follow infection control measures to prevent and control influenza transmission in this healthcare facility.

PROCEDURE:

- In addition to influenza immunizations, the following infection control measures, recommended by the CDC, will be followed to prevent person-to-person transmission of influenza and to control influenza outbreaks:
 - A Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette program will be implemented at the first point of contact with a potentially infected patient/resident to prevent the transmission of all respiratory tract infections, including influenza. The program includes:
 - Posting visual alerts, signs, posters, instructing patients/residents and visitors to inform healthcare workers if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection.
 - Tissues will be provided to patients/residents and visitors to cover their mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing.
 - Dispensers of alcohol-based hands rubs will be made available to everyone in the facility.
 - Supplies for handwashing will be readily available at all sick locations.
 - Masks will be offered to those persons who are coughing.
 - Healthcare workers will encourage persons who are coughing to sit at least three (3) feet away from others.
 - Healthcare workers will observe Droplet Precautions as well as Standard Precautions.
 - Influenza Identification:
 - Rapid influenza virus testing of patients/residents with recent onset of symptoms that are suggestive of influenza will be performed to identify influenza as the causative agent.
 - ◆ Viral cultures may be obtained from a subset of patients/residents to determine the virus type and subtype.

SUBJECT: INFECTION CONTROL PROCEDURES DURING AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC	REFERENCE #1010
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DEPARTMENT: FACILITYWIDE	EFFECTIVE:
APPROVED BY:	REVISED:

BACKGROUND:

- There is uncertainty about the exact modes by which avian influenza may first transmit between humans; therefore, additional precautions are needed for healthcare workers involved in the care of patients with documented or suspected avian influenza (see Interim Infection Control Recommendations for Patients with Known or Suspected Avian Influenza policy).
- Outbreaks of influenza have been prevented or controlled through a set of well established strategies that include:
 - Vaccination of patients and healthcare workers
 - Early detection of influenza cases in a facility
 - Use of antivirals to treat ill persons and, if recommended, as prophylaxis
 - Isolation of infectious patients in private rooms or cohort units
 - Use of appropriate barrier precautions during patient care, as recommended for Standard and Droplet Precautions
 - Administrative measures, such as restricting visitors, educating patients and staff, and cohorting healthcare workers assigned to an outbreak unit
- Infection control practices for pandemic influenza are the same as for other human influenza viruses and primarily involve the application of standard and droplet precautions to be followed in all healthcare settings, including by healthcare workers making home visits.
- During a pandemic, conditions that could affect infection control may include:
 - Shortages of antiviral drugs
 - Decreased efficacy of the vaccine
 - Increased virulence of the influenza strain
 - Shortages of single-patient rooms
 - Shortages of personal protective equipment
- These issues may necessitate changes in the standard recommended infection control practices for influenza. The CDC will provide updated infection control guidance as circumstances dictate.

TYPE A INFLUENZA OUTBREAK PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

- Healthcare facilities play a vital role in the detection of and response to influenza outbreaks. The information and data obtained from this self-assessment form may be used to help assess the preparedness and capacity of your hospital to respond to an Type A Influenza Outbreak. Questions assess preparedness in the following areas:
 - Decision-Making and Coordination
 - Surveillance
 - Triage and Clinical Evaluation of Patients
 - Human and Physical Resources for Inpatient Care
 - Education, Training and Communication

- The information and data obtained from this questionnaire can be used to help assess the preparedness and capacity of your hospital to respond to a Type A Influenza Outbreak. Many questions only require yes, no or don't know (DK) responses. Others will require some research.

Name of Hospital: _____

Hospital Address: _____

Name and Title of Person(s) Completing Form:

Date of Completion: _____