

Recommended Guidance for Fire Service for H1N1 Influenza

Prepared by: Atlantic County Office of Emergency Preparedness

Signs and Symptoms:

- Fever (>100 degrees F)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Body aches
- Headache
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Additional resources:

<http://pandemicflu.gov/index.html>
<http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/emgncymedical.html>
<http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/>

Recommendations:

Infection Control:

Fire agencies should always practice basic infection control procedures including vehicle/equipment decontamination, hand hygiene, cough and respiratory hygiene, and proper use of FDA cleared or authorized medical personal protective equipment (PPE).

Personal protective equipment (PPE): Interim recommendations:

When treating a patient with a suspected case of swine-origin influenza as defined above, the following PPE should be worn:

- Fit-tested disposable N95 respirator and eye protection (e.g., goggles; eye shield), disposable non-sterile gloves, and gown, when coming into close contact with the patient.

When treating a patient that is not a suspected case of swine-origin influenza but who has symptoms of acute febrile respiratory illness, the following precautions should be taken:

- Place a standard surgical mask on the patient, if tolerated. If not tolerated, EMS personnel may wear a standard surgical mask.
- Use good respiratory hygiene – use non-sterile gloves for contact with patient, patient secretions, or surfaces that may have been contaminated.
- Follow hand hygiene including hand washing or cleansing with alcohol based hand disinfectant after contact.
- Encourage good patient compartment vehicle airflow/ ventilation to reduce the concentration of aerosol accumulation when possible.

This document prepared using guidance material from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Atlantic County Government

County Executive
Dennis Levinson

Board of Freeholders
James Curcio
Chairman