



Protocol and Care Statement H1N1 Influenza A

Definitions:

- A. Infectious period** - is defined as 1 day prior to the start of symptoms extending to 24 hours after the fever is resolved.
- B. Acute respiratory illness** - is defined as fever and at least one of the following: sore throat, cough, and runny nose.
- C. High-risk groups** - is defined as a person who is at high-risk for complications of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection.
- D. Direct or close contact** – is defined as being within about 6 feet of an ill person who has influenza-like-illness symptoms.
- E. Confirmed case** - is defined as a person with an acute febrile respiratory illness who is positive for influenza A, but negative for H1N1.
- F. Influenza-like-illness (ILI)** – a person presenting with symptoms of the H1N1.
- G. Health care workers** – are considered school nurses and/or health aides who are providing direct care to students.
- H. Center for Disease Control (CDC)** – A federal agency committed to protecting health and promoting quality of life through the prevention and control of disease, injury, and disability.

General Information:

A. Symptoms:

1. Fever equal to or greater than 100 degrees
2. Coughing, runny nose
3. Sore throat

B. Transmission: H1N1 is spread when an infected person coughs and/or sneezes.

C. Persons At Risk:

1. Children aged 6 months – 24 years
2. Women who are and/or will be pregnant during the influenza season
3. Adults and children who have chronic health conditions
4. Adults and children who have immunosuppression health conditions
5. Persons caring for infants < 6 months of age

School Management:

A. Identification of students

1. Staff refer student to the health aide for reported and/or observed symptoms.

B. Prevention procedures to protect students at school:

1. Students and/or staff with symptoms are sent home with the recommendation to keep student home until fever resolved for 24 hours.
2. Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between students and staff to prevent spread of infections.
3. Students and/or staff with ILI will be given a mask to wear while waiting to go home.
4. Isolate students and/or staff with ILI until they go home.
5. Recommendation for students and staff to be vaccinated with the seasonal influenza vaccine and H1N1 vaccine.

C. Recommendations for safe hygiene practice by students and staff at school:

1. Staff education regarding for safe hygiene practices
 - Frequent hand washing with soap and water and/or use of alcohol based hand sanitizer.
 - Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and/or sneezing.
 - Avoid contact with persons who are sick.
2. Student and/or staff education related to attendance procedures
 - Stay home from work, school and community activities with acute symptoms.

D. Disinfecting the School Environment:

1. Follow routine procedure for disinfection the school environments outlined the *Standard Operating Procedure*.

General School Management:**A. Infection Control:**

1. School nurses and/or staff should wear a standard flat fold surgical mask when providing direct care and/or supervision of persons in isolation with ILI at school.
 - Discard mask after single use.
 - Disinfect any and all contaminated surfaces. Refer to *Custodial Standard Operating Procedure*.
2. Students and/or staff who appear to have an ILI at arrival or become ill during the school day will wear a flat fold surgical mask until they go home and be isolated in a room separate from other students until they go home.
3. Encourage good hand hygiene practices at school by students and staff. Refer to *Protocol Statement for Handwashing*.

B. School Attendance:

1. Students and/or staff, are excluded from school with acute ILI symptoms
 - Students and/or staff should stay home, not attend school or go into the community with acute ILI symptoms.
 - Students and/or staff are excluded from school until the fever is resolved for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
 - Health care workers providing direct care to students with ILI symptoms are excluded from school for 7 days from the onset of symptoms or 24 hours after symptoms abate whichever is longer.
 - If the health care worker is not providing direct care to students they should be excluded until the fever is resolved for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
2. Students and/or staff who are well – without symptoms of H1N1 influenza – may attend school, work and community activities even if they live with a person with ILI and/or have been exposed to a person with symptoms of the disease.

Community Notification:

- A. The CDC and/or the local health department do not recommend school closure and cancellation of school-sponsored events for ILI. Furthermore school closure is not advised unless staff and/or student absenteeism interfere with the school's ability to function.
- B. Letters to parents notifying them regarding cases of ILI is not required or recommended by the health department.
- C. Updated information is provided to parents on the district webpage and school newsletters.

Exhibit Approved: 10/27/09
Exhibit Revised:
KAG/ems

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