



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
&
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

From: Epidemiology & Communicable Disease Program

To: Hospitals & Healthcare Providers

October 15, 2009

Re: **Interim Guidance on Infection Control Measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Healthcare Settings, Including Protection of Healthcare Personnel – Updated) October 14, 2009.**

Dear Healthcare Providers

CDC has released updated interim guidance on infection control measures to prevent transmission of 2009 H1N1 influenza in healthcare facilities. The updated guidance applies uniquely to the special circumstances of the current 2009 H1N1 pandemic and will be updated as necessary as new information becomes available throughout the course of this influenza season. It provides general guidance for all healthcare facilities. The updated guidance expands on earlier guidance by emphasizing that successfully preventing transmission requires a comprehensive approach, beginning with pandemic planning that includes developing written plans that are flexible and adaptable should changes occur in the severity of illness or other aspects of 2009 H1N1 and seasonal influenza. Revisions from earlier guidance include: criteria for identification of suspected influenza patients; recommended time away from work for healthcare personnel; changes to isolation precautions based on tasks and anticipated exposures; expansion of information on the hierarchy of controls which ranks preventive interventions in the following order of preference: elimination of exposures, engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment; and changes to guidance on use of respiratory protection.

As anticipated the exclusion criteria for healthcare personnel who develop a fever and respiratory symptoms has changed. As of October 14, 2009 healthcare personnel who develop a fever and respiratory symptoms to be excluded for at least 24 hours (change from 7 days exclusion) after they no longer have a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

Please visit http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm for an updated guidance on infection control measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in healthcare settings, including of healthcare personnel.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Epidemiology & Communicable Disease Program at (815) 727-8481.



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