

**Cabarrus County EMS System**  
**Infectious Disease Prevention Bulletin to Emergency Responders**

Numerous cases of Swine Influenza (H1N1) have been identified in the United States with a rapid progression across the country. Currently, a phase 4 pandemic has been labeled by the CDC for this disease in the United States.

As healthcare providers and emergency responders, we are tasked with responding to patients who may be presenting with flu-like signs and symptoms. You are encouraged to visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for the most current information regarding Swine Influenza.

There is no vaccine proven effective for this strain of influenza. Prevention is the primary focus. As a healthcare provider and emergency responder, you should remain familiar with signs and symptoms of this virus and take the appropriate precautions immediately upon identifying or being made aware of potential flu-like symptoms.

**Precautions**

- Wear N-95 (TB type) mask when in the presence of or responding to a patient with flu-like symptoms.
- Wear medical gowns and safety glasses.
- Wear latex or latex free gloves while in patient contact.
- Exercise droplet and airborne precautions.
- Clean patient care equipment and units with approved germicide/anti-viral disinfectants
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Launder uniforms after being in contact with a patient who presents with flu-like symptoms (have spares available during your duty shift).
- If you get sick with influenza, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

**Interim Procedure**

- During this period, the Cabarrus Communications Center will make efforts to notify responding units if flu-like symptoms are presenting. If this information is received, appropriate PPE should be donned prior entry. Telecommunicators from Concord and Kannapolis will need to remain on the line to receive the information upon dispatch for conveyance to respective agencies.
- If transporting a patient with flu-like symptoms, notify the hospital of this information upon encode.
- Additional actions may become necessary at a later point.

Public Health, Emergency Management, and EMS are monitoring the status of this event and receive regular updates. As an emergency responder and healthcare provider, you are a key component in breaking the chain of this virus. Please monitor your agency for updates in the event additional actions become necessary.

Dr. Craig Corey – Medical Director

Bobby Smith – Emergency Management Director, [rsmith@cabarruscounty.us](mailto:rsmith@cabarruscounty.us)

Alan Thompson – EMS Assistant Director, Infectious Disease Control Officer – [dathompson@cabarruscounty.us](mailto:dathompson@cabarruscounty.us),  
704/920-2606