

Countywide Services Agency

Department of
Health and Human Services

Emergency Medical Services
Bruce A. Wagner, Chief



County of Sacramento

Terry Schutten, County Executive
Jim Hunt, Acting Agency Administrator
Ann Edwards-Buckley, Director

Date: September 18, 2009

To: Sacramento County Emergency Medical Service Providers

From: Hernando Garzon, MD, Sacramento County EMS Medical Director

RE: Revised Emergency "Influenza-Like Illness" (ILI) Protocol

In addition to standard existing Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS) treatment protocols, the following protocol should be followed for ANY respiratory, 'sick person', or fever related calls.

Initial interrogation of the patient should be from at least 6 feet away to determine if personal protective equipment (PPE) precautions are necessary.

Ask if the patient has ILI symptoms – Fever (>100.4) with respiratory symptoms (cough, sore throat, body aches, runny nose).

If the patient answers "**No**", the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel shall:

- Use standard barrier precautions. Standard precautions include hand hygiene and the use of eye protection if splashing or spraying of blood or body fluids (including respiratory secretions) are anticipated.

If the patient answers "**Yes**," or if a patient cannot answer questions about ILI symptoms, EMS personnel shall:

- Place a surgical mask on the patient (if tolerated by the patient) during evaluation and transport.
- EMS providers should wear a fit-tested N95 respirator, disposable gloves, gown, and eye protection (face shield or goggles).
- Clean hands thoroughly with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand gel before and after contact with the patient,
- Use non re-breather masks when oxygen is required.
- When clinically appropriate during the delivery of care, minimize procedures that increase production of droplets:
 - Minimize suctioning
 - Consider CPAP instead of intubation if clinically feasible
 - If bag-valve-masks are needed, use those with HEPA filters whenever possible.

- Keep accurate patient information, and report all possible ILI cases to your supervisor.
- If a patient with ILI symptoms refuses transport, encourage them to seek medical attention as soon as possible on their own. Otherwise advise them to stay at home until their illness resolves, to cover any coughs or sneezes, and to wash hands frequently.

Hernando Garzon, MD

Sacramento County EMS Medical Director