

Appendix Q – OSHA Guidance

(Excepted from Occupational Safety and Health Administration. *Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guidance for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Employers*. For updated information go to www.osha.gov

Pre-Hospital Care and Patient Transport outside Healthcare Facilities

During an influenza pandemic, patients will still require emergency transport to a healthcare facility. The following recommendations are designed to protect healthcare workers, including emergency medical services personnel, during pre-hospital care and transport. These recommendations can be instituted when patients are identified as having symptoms consistent with an influenza-like illness or routinely, regardless of symptoms, when pandemic influenza is in the community.

	<p>Screen all patients for influenza-like illness.* If influenza is suspected, implement the following strategies:</p>	<p>Without relying on patient screening, routinely implement the following strategies:</p>
Engineering Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimize the vehicle’s ventilation to increase the volume of air exchange during transport. The vehicle's ventilation system should be operated in the non-recirculating mode and should bring in as much outdoor air as possible. When possible, use vehicles that have separate driver and patient compartments that can provide separate ventilation to each area. In this situation, drivers do not require particulate respirators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimize the vehicle’s ventilation to increase the volume of air exchange during transport. The vehicle's ventilation system should be operated in the non-recirculating mode and should bring in as much outdoor air as possible. When possible, use vehicles that have separate driver and patient compartments that can provide separate ventilation to each area. In this situation, drivers do not require particulate respirators.
Administrative Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate healthcare workers engaged in medical transport about the risks of aerosol-generating procedures. Notify the receiving facility as soon as possible, prior to arrival, that a patient with suspected pandemic influenza infection is being transported to the facility and of the precautions that are indicated. Minimize the opportunity for contamination of supplies and equipment inside the vehicle (e.g. ensure that all cabinetry remains closed during transport.). Continue to follow standard infection control procedures, such as standard precautions, recommended procedures for waste disposal and standard practices for disinfection of the emergency vehicle and patient care equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate healthcare workers engaged in medical transport about the risks of aerosol-generating procedures. Notify the receiving facility as soon as possible, prior to arrival, that a patient with suspected pandemic influenza infection is being transported to the facility and of the precautions that are indicated. Minimize the opportunity for contamination of supplies and equipment inside the vehicle (e.g. ensure that all cabinetry remains closed during transport.). Continue to follow standard infection control procedures, such as standard precautions, recommended procedures for waste disposal and standard practices for disinfection of the emergency vehicle and patient care equipment.
Personal Protective Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If tolerated by the patients, place a surgical mask on all patients with respiratory illness to contain droplets expelled during coughing. If this is not possible (i.e., would further compromise respiratory status, or is difficult for the patient to wear), have the patient cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing, or use the most practical alternative to contain respiratory secretions. Healthcare workers transporting patients with influenza-like illness should use a respirator (N-95 or better). If respirators are not available, healthcare workers should wear a surgical mask. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider routine use of surgical or procedure masks for all patients during transport when pandemic influenza is in the community. Healthcare workers transporting patients should use a respirator (N-95 or better). If respirators are not available, healthcare workers should wear a surgical mask.

*The Sentinel Provider Network definition of influenza-like illness is fever (>100°F or 37.8°C) and sore throat and/or cough in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.