



DATE: March 3, 2010
TO: All SHC Staff and Physicians **POST WHERE NEEDED**
FROM: Lucy Tompkins, MD, PhD, Medical Director, Infection Control, SHC
Sasha Madison, MPH, CIC, Manager, Infection Control and Epidemiology Department, SHC
RE: **Updated H1N1 Influenza Protocol** **Newly Revised March 2010**

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Although our laboratory is still detecting respiratory viruses including RSV and metapneumovirus, SHC lab has not detected novel H1N1 2010 influenza A virus ("swine flu") since January 30th. As a result we no longer recommend screening for novel H1N1 2010 influenza A virus as part of the routine Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) screening protocol.

However, because there are other respiratory viruses still circulating, the following practices **MUST** be continued:

- All staff, patients and visitors **MUST** follow Respiratory Hygiene and Etiquette
- Patients/visitors visiting the ED must continue to wear masks as we are still in the midst of the respiratory virus season.
- If influenza is high in the differential continue to follow the Respiratory/Droplet Isolation protocol.
 - N95 masks **ARE NOT** to be reused as we have an adequate supply.

- **Discontinuation of isolation NO LONGER requires Infection Control and Epidemiology Department approval if the following criteria are met:**
 - Influenza A DFA negative
 - Patient not receiving antiviral treatment (e.g., Tamiflu, Relenza)

As per our current Occupation Health policy, all staff, including physicians with influenza-like-illness (ILI) **MUST** stay home from work for 24 hours after you no longer have a fever (fever defined as 100 or greater), without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g., Tylenol). If still coughing upon return to work, you must practice respiratory etiquette (cover your cough) and wear a surgical mask, and perform hand hygiene.

Visitor restrictions have been lifted

H1N1 Vaccination of Patients

Patients should continue to be offered the H1N1 vaccination.

H1N1 Vaccination for Employees

We would like to thank our staff and physicians for achieving 98% compliance with the H1N1 Vaccination Program with 73% of our staff being vaccinated. Thank you for your patience as we waited for our vaccine supply.