

## H1N1 INFLUENZA POLICY

Recognizing the importance of providing appropriate safeguards for patients, medical staff and hospital personnel, Physicians and Allied Health Professionals (AHP) will comply with the recommendations outlined below for Prevention and Control of H1N1 Influenza.

Symptoms of suspect or confirmed H1N1 disease: The symptoms of 2009 H1N1 flu virus include fever (100 degrees F), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea. People may have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

Infection Prevention for H1N1 influenza

1. Physicians and AHPs will be offered H1N1 Influenza vaccine as soon as it becomes available.
2. Physicians and AHPs are strongly encouraged to be immunized against H1N1. Those physicians/AHP who do not become immunized will be required to complete an H1N1 Influenza Declination form.
3. When caring for patients with H1N1 Influenza, appropriate protective equipment will be worn, including gloves and mask. Protective eyewear should be considered when doing invasive procedures such as intubation, CPR, suctioning or post-mortem examinations.

Infection Control for H1N1 Influenza

1. Physicians who are ill with probable or laboratory -confirmed H1N1 should not come to the hospital to care for patients for 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, without fever-reducing medicines.
2. If caring for severely immunocompromised patients, physicians should not come to the hospital for 7 days from symptom onset or until resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer.
3. Physicians or AHPs who come to work when ill will be asked to relinquish care of their patient to a colleague. This may be done by a nurse or physician colleague. If a conflict arises, the chain of command and/or hospital policy will be followed. *EXCEPTION: If you are the only provider who can provide the needed service in an emergency situation AND you feel well enough to do so, you must wear appropriate protective apparel (Mask and gloves) to prevent transmission to the patient.*
4. Notify Health Information Services that you will be unable to come to the hospital for the defined time frame. HIS will put a hold on your medical records for completion.

References

<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/qa.htm> 2009 H1N1 Flu and You. September 24, 2009.

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance>: Interim Guidance on Infection Control Measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Healthcare Settings, Including Protection of Healthcare Personnel, October 14, 2009

**APPROVALS:**

Medical Executive Committee  
Medical Policy Committee  
Board of Trustees

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