



For Suburban Law Enforcement

INTERIM GUIDANCE

Law enforcement personnel (officers) may be exposed to persons who may have influenza (seasonal or novel H1N1 flu). Below are interim recommendations from the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) when working in a community setting and when managing or transporting a detainee.

Recommendations for working in a community setting

1. Practice common sense prevention measures to help decrease the risk of getting sick. These include:
 - a. Clean: Wash your hands with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
 - b. Cover: Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue or the inside of your elbow, not your hands.
 - c. Contain: Contain your germs by staying home when sick.
2. Remind the public what they should do if they have flu-like symptoms. Refer to the Seasonal and H1N1 Flu Signs and Symptoms Card located on the CCDPH website at www.cookcountypublichealth.org. CCDPH encourages in-home care for mild cases of flu to prevent spread of infection in the community.

Recommendations for Detainee Screening and Management Procedure

2. Screen detainees when they are taken into custody for signs and symptoms of flu. Refer to the Seasonal and H1N1 Flu Signs and Symptoms Card (see above). If detainee has flu symptoms:
 - a. Have the detainee wear a surgical mask, if possible. Wear a surgical mask if the detainee refuses or is unable to wear one. Surgical masks, if the mask is not torn, dirty or wet, may be worn for one shift (eight hours), and disposed of in the regular trash.
 - b. Follow other prevention measures as feasible, such as separating the detainee or maintaining his/her distance from well individuals.
3. At the discretion of the officer, a detainee with symptoms may be transported to the nearest medical facility for evaluation. If an officer is transporting an ill detainee:
 - a. Instruct the detainee to keep the surgical mask on.
 - b. Open windows in the transport vehicle to assure a supply of fresh air.
4. After physical contact with a detainee who has flu symptoms, wash hands with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand rub. Avoid touching face, nose or eyes with unwashed hands.
5. Disinfect hard surfaces as soon as possible after moving the detainee who has flu symptoms. Hard surfaces can be cleaned with soap or detergent and water.

Recommendations for Screening Procedure for Transport to Court

1. If a detainee flu signs and symptoms (see above) and needs to be transported to court, transport the individual to the Criminal Courthouse/Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC).
 - a. Have the detainee wear a surgical mask, if possible, and instruct him/her to keep it on.
 - b. Open windows in the transport vehicle to assure a supply of fresh air.
2. Upon arrival at CCDOC, alert Cook County personnel that the detainee has flu symptoms. The CCDOC has protocols and procedures for addressing symptomatic detainees to reduce disease transmission.
3. After physical contact with a detainee who has flu symptoms, wash hands with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand rub. Avoid touching face, nose or eyes with unwashed hands
4. Disinfect hard surfaces as soon as possible after moving the detainee who has flu symptoms. Hard surfaces can be cleaned with soap or detergent and water.