

NC Office of EMS
Swine Flu information Sheet.
April 27, 2009 1200 Hours



As of 4/26/09 20 cases of H1N1, Swine Influenza A have been confirmed in the US. None have been reported in North Carolina. Some of those confirmed cases in other states had previously travelled to Mexico. To date all US cases have been relatively mild and similar to seasonal influenza, with only one person requiring hospitalization.

The NC Office of EMS in cooperation with our partners in the NC Division of Public Health and other Local, State and Federal agencies, want you to be prepared in the event that you as an EMS provider have to care for a person with known or suspected Swine Influenza A (H1N1).

This Influenza produces similar symptoms to the seasonal influenza we are all familiar with. These symptoms include fever, cough, rhinorrhea (nasal drainage), congestion and sore throat. Some patients may develop nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills. Many complain of myalgias and fatigue. Complicated cases may develop dyspnea, pneumonia and in severe cases, respiratory failure.

Persons infected with Swine Influenza A are infectious up to 7 days after onset of symptoms.

In persons who have some of these symptoms and/or who have travelled recently in areas in which the disease is reported, we recommend that you take the following actions:

- Immediately place a surgical mask on the patient
- Use PPE yourself including gloves and N-95 mask
- If you are unable to place a mask on the patient, all persons in the vehicle should wear a mask
- Create negative pressure in the unit by having an open window
- Early notification of the receiving facility is important so that they can prepare appropriate rooms to receive the patient
- Careful cleaning of the unit after the call using approved infection control practices is important.

If you develop influenza like symptoms, notify your health care provider, your agency and avoid contact with others, to limit spread of the illness,

For additional information on EMS infection control practices for pandemic influenza, please contact your local health department or see appendix K of :EMS Pandemic Influenza Guidelines for Statewide Adoption available at:
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/PandemicInfluenzaGuidelines/>