



Swine Flu Guidance and Recommendations

April 28, 2009

To All SLO County EMS Providers:

The SLO County EMS Agency, in collaboration with the SLO County Public Health Department, is monitoring the Swine Flu situation, which remains very fluid and subject to change.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proclaimed a State of Emergency that will support and facilitate state health departments' response to this outbreak. This proclamation cuts government red tape by, in part, ordering the Department of Public Health and the Emergency Medical Services Authority to enter into any and all necessary contracts for providing services, materials, personnel and equipment to supplement extraordinary preventive measures being taken across the state

ADVISORY

As of last night, there were still no confirmed cases of Swine Flu in SLO County. Note there is an intrinsic delay in confirmation of **any** Swine Flu sample, thus standard universal and respiratory precautions that are usually employed are appropriate at this time.

At this time the SLO County EMS Agency is asking **all EMS providers** to take the following actions to protect EMS personnel and guide public inquiries to appropriate sources:

1. Recognize the SLO County Public Health Department as the source of information on local conditions, with the SLO County EMSA providing updates to the EMS community as appropriate;
2. Review the following with your EMS personnel prior to going on duty:
 - a. the importance of washing hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer when on or off duty;
 - b. the use of universal respiratory precautions with suspected cases of Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) – this may include placing a mask on patients;
 - c. your internal infection control policies;
 - d. EMS Authority Specific Guidance #1 April 23, 2009 Precautions for ILI (link below);
 - e. the availability and appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
 - f. SLO County Prehospital Policy #102: Contagious Disease Exposure (link below) – please make photocopies if additional forms are needed;
3. Ensure that, should it be needed, you have sufficient types and quantities of PPE for your EMS personnel per EMS Authority Policy #216 (link below);
4. Dispatch personnel should refer the public to Public Information resources (links below) and notify transporting units of the possibility of ILI cases if suspected;
5. Transporting units should provide early hospital notification of suspected cases of ILI.

LINKS TO REFERENCE DOCUMENTS FOR EMS PROVIDERS

SLO County EMS ALS Field Manual: Pandemic Flu Preparedness Guide

SLO County Policy #102 Policy #102: Contagious Disease Exposure: <http://www.sloemsa.org/policy/pdf/102.pdf>

EMS Authority Specific Guidance #1 April 23, 2009 Precautions for Influenza-Like-Illness:
http://www.emsa.ca.gov/about/files/CASwineFlu_EMS%20guidelines24%20April%202009.pdf

EMS Authority Policy #216 PPE for Ambulance Personnel in California Guidelines:
<http://www.emsa.ca.gov/pubs/pdf/emsa216.pdf>

Key Facts About Swine Influenza: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SLO County Public Health Department: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/site4.aspx>

California Emergency Medical Services Authority: http://www.emsa.ca.gov/about/Swine_Flu_Guidance.asp

Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/index.htm>

###