



San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency, Inc.

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Swine Origin Influenza Virus (S-OIV) Guidance and Recommendations

April 30, 2009

To All SLO County EMS Providers:

The SLO County EMS Agency continues to collaborate with the SLO County Public Health Department to monitor the developing Swine Origin Influenza Virus (S-OIV) situation. In light of the announcement yesterday of the County's first "probable case" of the disease, it is very likely that a positive case will be confirmed shortly.

BRIEFINGS

The Public Health Department has begun to receive numerous requests to provide briefings for meetings of various public agencies and community organizations. Any public agency or organization desiring an update for such a meeting can send a representative to one of the daily briefings being conducted by the Public Health Department.

In addition, there will be a briefing (approximately 30 minutes with time for questions and answers) for clinical personnel, including EMS providers, hospitals, health care providers, fire service and others, at **4 p.m. today, April 30, in the Large Conference Room at the Public Health Department, 2191 Johnson Ave., San Luis Obispo.**

For more information about attending briefings, contact the Public Health Department at 781-1268.

ADVISORY

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 updated information on local conditions, with the SLO County EMSA providing updates to the EMS community as appropriate;
2. Inventory the type and number of prehospital Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) your agency has on hand and/or that is readily available. For current purposes, PPE includes N95 respirators, disposable patient masks, gloves, gowns, hazardous waste collection bags, eye protection and cleaning supplies.
3. Email your answer to the following question as soon as possible to the EMSA at info@sloemsa.org: For your full complement of prehospital personnel for the period May 1 – May 15 (approximately two weeks), are your PPE stores adequate, or do you anticipate the need for additional PPE? If you anticipate the need for additional PPE, please list the types of equipment you will most likely be requesting.
4. **As long as there has not been a case of S-OIV reported in SLO County**, adhere to the following patient assessment guidelines, and review with your EMS personnel prior to going on duty:
 - a. EMS personnel should stay more than 6 feet away from patients and bystanders with symptoms, and exercise appropriate routine respiratory droplet precautions while assessing all patients for suspected cases of S-OIV.
 - b. Assess all patients for symptoms of acute febrile respiratory illness (fever plus one or more of the following: nasal congestion/rhinorrhea, sore throat, or cough):

- i. If no acute febrile respiratory illness, proceed with normal EMS care.
 - ii. If symptoms of acute febrile respiratory illness, then assess all patients for travel to a geographic area with confirmed cases of S-OIV within the last 7 days or close contact with someone with travel to these areas (see link below to CDPH)
 - 1. If travel exposure, don appropriate PPE for suspected case of S-OIV.
 - 2. If no travel exposure, place a standard surgical mask on the patient (if tolerated) and use appropriate PPE for cases of acute febrile respiratory illness without suspicion of S-OIV.
5. **If and/or when a case of S-OIV has been confirmed in SLO County**, adhere to the following PPE recommendations and review with your EMS personnel prior to going on duty:
- a. When treating a patient with a suspected case of S-OIV, the following PPE should be worn:
 - i. Fit-tested disposable N95 respirator and eye protection (e.g., goggles; eye shield), disposable non-sterile gloves, and gown, when coming into close contact with the patient.
 - b. When treating a patient that is not a suspected case of S-OIV, but who has symptoms of acute febrile respiratory illness, the following precautions should be taken:
 - i. Place a standard surgical mask on the patient, if tolerated. If not tolerated, EMS personnel may wear a standard surgical mask.
 - ii. Use good respiratory hygiene – use non-sterile gloves for contact with patient, patient secretions, or surfaces that may have been contaminated. Follow hand hygiene including hand washing or cleansing with alcohol based hand disinfectant after contact.
 - c. Encourage good patient compartment vehicle airflow/ventilation to reduce the concentration of aerosol accumulation when possible.

LINKS TO REFERENCE DOCUMENTS FOR EMS PROVIDERS

California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

SLO County EMS ALS Field Manual: Pandemic Flu Preparedness Guide:
<http://www.sloemsa.org/PandemicFluGuide.pdf>

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>

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