



San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency, Inc.

712 Fiero Lane #29, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Phone 805-546-8728 Fax 805-546-8736
www.sloemsa.org

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Guidance and Recommendations

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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 H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) situation. As of April 30, there are 3 probable cases of H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) in San Luis Obispo County. These cases occurred at Grizzly Academy, a residential school at Camp San Luis. No person in this cluster has required hospitalization, and many have already been released from isolation and returned to normal activity. Cases continue to be reported across California and the nation.

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. Adhere to the following patient assessment guidelines, and review with your EMS personnel prior to going on duty:
 - **While assessing a patient with symptoms of acute febrile respiratory illness** (fever plus one or more of the following: nasal congestion/rhinorrhea, sore throat, or cough):
 - EMS personnel who are directly involved with patient care should exercise appropriate routine respiratory droplet precautions: place a standard surgical mask on the patient (if tolerated) and use appropriate acute febrile respiratory illness PPE (a standard surgical mask).
 - EMS personnel NOT directly involved with patient care should endeavor to stay more than 6 feet away from patients; otherwise use appropriate acute febrile respiratory illness PPE (a standard surgical mask).
 - **When coming into close contact and/or treating a patient with a confirmed case of H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)**, EMS personnel should wear a fit-tested disposable N95 respirator and eye protection (e.g., goggles; eye shield), disposable non-sterile gloves and gown.
 - When in an enclosed space or transporting a patient with symptoms of acute febrile respiratory illness, try to increase airflow/ventilation to reduce the concentration of aerosol accumulation when possible.

LINKS TO REFERENCE DOCUMENTS FOR EMS PROVIDERS

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

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

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

California Department of Public Health Infection Control Guidelines:
<http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/SwineInfluenzaHealthPros.aspx>

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

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