



Operations Order 04:29:09:01

The purpose of the following is to reiterate to all field personnel the Louisville Metro EMS Exposure Control Plan provided under system Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). This is to assist in minimizing possible transmission of influenza-like illness among pre-hospital providers and first responder personnel.

Prehospital providers and first responders should maintain a high index of suspicion for any patient exhibiting symptoms or signs of influenza like illness, including

Fever

And any combination of the following:

Cough, sore throat, or runny nose/congestion.

Note: Any recent travel by the patient to an area with known confirmed cases of swine flu—Mexico, Texas, New York, Ohio Indiana, California or Kansas- should raise the level of suspicion for influenza-like illness.

Prior to making patient contact, all providers shall protect themselves by wearing the following personal protective equipment(PPE)

Gloves

N-95 Mask

Eye Protection

If the patients respiratory status permits (mild symptoms only), a surgical mask shall be applied to the patient.

Any procedures that aerosolize particles – e.g. intubation, suctioning or high flow nebulizer therapy—should be performed with special caution.

If the patients condition permits, high flow nebulizer therapy (albuterol for asthma or COPD) may be replaced by assisting the patient with the use of their own metered dose inhaler.

Notification shall be made to the receiving emergency hospital department for any case of influenza – like illness.

Following the transport of a patient with influenza – like illness, disinfect all vehicle surfaces and wipe potentially contaminated equipment with approved cleaning solvents, *Spray Nine*, *Formula 409* or any bleach to water solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water).

In all cases, careful hand washing will act to limit contamination or spread influenza like illness.

Please contact your supervisor or Medical Control for any special circumstances or questions.

Neal J. Richmond, M.D.

Colonel Craig Rodgers