

## Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Updates: Healthcare workers and Infection Control Issues

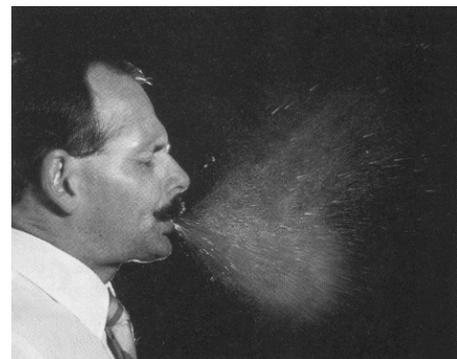
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Information provided in this presentation is  
considered provisional and is subject to change



Influenza guidance provided by Los  
Angeles County is largely based on  
seasonal influenza recommendations



## Isolation Precautions

- Droplet precautions\* for all patients with ILI
  - ILI: Temp > 37.8°C (100°F) plus new cough or sore throat
  - Surgical mask for close patient contact
- Ideally, place patients in single occupancy room
- For aerosol generating procedures: N95 masks, eye protection, gown, and gloves should be used
- Patient should be transported with surgical mask

\*This differs from CDPH, CDC, and Cal/OSHA



## Aerosol Generating Procedures

- Bronchoscopy, resuscitation with emergency intubation or CPR, open suctioning of airway secretions
- NOT generally considered aerosol-generating include nasopharyngeal specimens collection, closed suctioning, and administration of nebulized meds\*

\*This differs from the CDC



## Duration of Isolation for Patients for Influenza

- 7 days after onset of symptoms, or 24 hours after resolution of fever, whichever is later

## Infection Control Guidance

- Visitor
  - Screening
  - Signage
  - Provide tissues, masks, waterless hand sanitizers
- Cough etiquette
- Hand hygiene
- Stay home if you are sick
- Employee health surveillance/staff absenteeism

MIKE SMITH



## Prophylaxis Guidance (1)

- First: PREVENT EXPOSURES!
- Consider within 7\* days of exposure for:
  - Healthcare workers who provided care to a confirmed influenza patient AND did not use proper PPE (especially if high risk)
  - Household and other close contacts of an influenza patient who are at high risk
  - Outbreaks (ie closed facility like a SNF)
- Prophylaxis duration is for 10 days after last exposure

\*This differs from the CDPH

## Prophylaxis Guidance (2)

- Underlying medical conditions that are risk factors for severe influenza:
  - <4 years
  - >65 years
  - Pregnancy
  - Chronic disorders (pulmonary, CV, renal, hepatic, hematologic, metabolic)
  - Immunosuppression
  - Long term aspirin therapy and <19 years
  - Residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities

## Prophylaxis Guidance (3)

- Close contacts include:
  - Performing physical examination or medical procedure
  - Sharing eating or drinking utensils
  - Kissing or embracing
  - Any other contact likely to result in exposure to respiratory droplets
  - Typically NOT walking by an infected person or sitting across from a symptomatic patient
- Consider length of time of exposure

## Return to Work

- Self-isolate until afebrile without anti-pyretics for >24 hours\*

\*This differs from CDPH and CDC



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## Reporting Guidelines

- Individual case reports for severe cases
  - ICU and deaths
- Aggregate reporting
  - All hospitalized cases and deaths
  - Weekly
  - Via online survey



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## Vaccinations

- Ensure HCW receive vaccines
  - Asymptomatic transmission has occurred
- Seasonal influenza vaccine recommendations:
  - Patients ages 6 month through 19<sup>th</sup> birthday
  - Adults at high risk for complications or in close contact with someone at high risk
  - Review pneumococcal vaccine
- H1N1 Vaccine
  - Priority groups will be addressed

Recommendations from Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices



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## CAL-OSHA (1)

- May 21, 2009: Cal/OSHA Standards Board adopted aerosol transmissible disease (ATD) standards
- Covered workplaces for 5199 include health care settings (hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices and home health care operations, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, emergency response operations and laboratories)
- August 5, 2009: standards go into effect
- "Novel or unknown pathogens" (H1N1)



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## CAL-OSHA (2)

- "Any local public health department's guidance supersedes all other guidance except for the Cal/OSHA regulations."
  - August 4, 2009 California Hospital Association



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## Pandemic Flu Plan

- Make sure you know about the pandemic planning and response activities of the hospitals, outpatient facilities, and local public health in your community



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## Conclusions

- “The real uncertainty is the fall and how the novel H1N1 virus will affect our influenza 2009-2010 season.”
- Preparedness and planning is essential!
- Start now!!



## References

- <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/Swine.htm>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>
- To sign up for Influenza Watch:
  - <https://admin.publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommo/public/listserv/index.cfm?ou=ph>