



Interim Guidance for Public Safety Personnel

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is issuing this guidance document to encourage all public safety disciplines to proactively prepare for a potential increased impact of the H1N1 Virus.

This document is not intended to provide protocol directives, nor is it intended to supersede existing guidance from your local public health department and/or medical director. The intent of this document is to provide interim guidance to Indiana's Public Safety personnel, and will be updated as needed. Please refer to www.in.gov/flu for updated information.

Local government leadership must be prepared to work together with their public health and safety officials to make critical and time-sensitive preparedness and response decisions. After coming together, it is imperative that this group collectively seek and distribute accurate and timely information that provides clear guidance for actions to be taken by local public health and safety personnel. All entities must collaborate to ensure that they have the right information at the right time to continue their jurisdictional response efforts throughout the State.

Mitigation

- Practice social distancing, keeping a minimum of 5 to 6 feet between you and anyone you are conversing with, including persons you are interviewing.
- Continue to frequently wash hands and use alcohol based hand sanitizers.
- In efforts to keep from spreading illness, if you become ill please remain at your residence and avoid contact with other persons for at least 7 days after your initial symptoms begin or for 24 hours after your symptoms subside, whichever is longer.
- Avoid placing objects in your mouth that may have been in contact with a contaminated surface (example: ink pens).
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth or nose.

Preparedness

- Obtain and frequently use hand sanitizers containing at least 60% (by volume) alcohol.
- Use a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) for cleaning surfaces and equipment, pre-packaged bleach based wipes may also be effective.
- Obtain an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to maintain needs of staff and escalating community response.
- Make tissues available, and utilize etiquette of coughing/sneezing into tissue and dispose of immediately following, then wash your hands.
 - If tissues are unavailable, utilize your sleeve to cough/sneeze onto.

Response

- Victims or patients displaying runny nose, cough, congestion and a fever should have a surgical mask placed on them.
- Responders having close contact or providing patient care should put a surgical mask on and also wear disposable gloves.

Points for Professionals to Discuss:

Emergency Medical Services & Fire Departments:

- Clean your:
 - Apparatus (including surfaces such as the steering wheel, console, door handles [inside and outside the passenger compartment])
 - Thoroughly clean the EMS/Patient Care Equipment
 - Clipboards
 - Communications devices
 - Living quarters
 - Headsets
 - Equipment which has been taken into a treatment area (EMS bags, monitor, etc)
- Remember that face masks are only to be utilized for one patient encounter

Law Enforcement Agencies:

- Consider suspending roll calls, training events, and any inter-departmental gatherings which would enable H1N1 transmission; utilize e-mail or other media when available.
- Consider restricting all but essential persons to the Administrative Office environment.
- Repeatedly clean exposed surfaces of equipment (radio, clipboards, underside of door handles, etc.); pay particular attention to high-contact areas such as Squad rooms and/or Book-In/Intake areas, and Breath Test rooms.
- Consider restricting all inmate visitations.
- Make sure officers know to not enter a confined space where a suspected H1N1 patient is located; make every attempt to direct the patient to come outside; provide both the patient, the officer, and other responders with surgical masks.
- Jail kitchen staff should clean hands very often and disinfect surfaces frequently.

Public Safety Answering Points:

- Consider restricting access to all but essential persons.
- Do not share headsets.
- Clean telephone, mouse, and desktop surfaces repeatedly.
- Thoroughly clean all on-call books and other commonly accessed materials.

Discuss within your professional circles other actions your personnel might take to minimize risk of exposure and further transmission of H1N1.

Further considerations:

- Develop an alternative/modified vehicle response plan.
 - Can you reduce apparatus to limit exposure of personnel?
- Develop/review alternate standards of care.
 - What services may be limited?
- Develop/review alternate locations for medical treatment.
 - Are there facilities where outpatient services can be established?
- Develop/review alternative staffing plans.
 - Can volunteers supplement/backfill positions?
- Develop/review mutual aid agreements
 - What assets are within your district?
- Develop/review continuity of operations plan.
 - What business can be conducted remotely? Alternate sites?

Links:

Links to organizations are provided solely as a service to our Indiana public safety personnel. These links are not an endorsement of these organizations or their programs by IDHS, and none should be inferred. IDHS is not responsible for the content of individual organization web pages found at these links:

www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/cleaning_ems.html

www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_ems.htm

www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/PandemicInfluenzaGuidelines/

www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/PandemicInfluenza/

Further information for Healthcare Providers:

Healthcare providers may call 1-866-233-1237 for direct contact with the Indiana State Department of Health. This number is not for public dissemination.

This virus is transmitted from an infected individual's coughing or sneezing and subsequent inhalation by a recipient, or by a recipient touching where an infected person has coughed, sneezed, or touched. As a result, further transmission of this virus can be decreased by following the simple rule:

If someone else has **"Touched" it**, you need to **Disinfect it!**