

Pandemic Influenza

Infection Control Guidelines For Emergency Medical Services



Follow these guidelines to protect yourself during patient transport:

Screen all patients for symptoms of flu:

- Fever above 100° F or 37.8° C
- Cough or sore throat or shortness of breath.

Follow standard and droplet precautions when transporting patients with symptoms of flu:

- EMS workers: wear a mask, gown and gloves.
- Wash hands after caring for the patient.
- Contain patient secretions using the most practical method below:
 - Place a mask on the patient or
 - Have patient cover the mouth/nose with tissue when coughing; or
 - If necessary, use a non-rebreather face mask for oxygen delivery; or
 - Positive-pressure ventilation can be performed using a resuscitation bag-valve mask
- Aerosol-generating procedures like mechanical ventilation should be avoided during transport unless medically necessary to support life.

For best vehicle ventilation:

- Increase the volume of air exchange during transport.
- When possible, use vehicles that have separate driver and patient compartments that can provide separate ventilation to each area.

Notify the receiving facility that a patient with possible flu is being transported.

Follow standard operating procedures for routine cleaning:

- Of the emergency vehicle
- Of re-usable patient care equipment.

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