

Pandemic Influenza Plan

Policy:

This protocol outlines the management of any Influenza strain in the event sustained human-to-human transmission results in an epidemic or pandemic.

Procedures:

Student Health (SH) Personnel will monitor flue activity by regularly checking web sites:

<http://www.cdd.gov/flu/>

<http://who.int/en/>

<http://healthyamericans.org>

<http://pandemicflue.gov/>

<http://kdheks.gov>

Case Management:

Identification of sustained human-to-human transmission of Flu in any geographic local will provoke the following actions:

Alert the President and Vice Presidents to ensure that non-essential travel to or from Flu affected locals will be discouraged.

SH will:

- Advise students, staff, and faculty about health risks, symptoms, and preventative measures to use if travel to affected locals is unavoidable.
- Personnel returning from an affected local will be reminded to monitor their own health and report symptoms that occur within 10 days of travel.
- SH will post a sign at the entrance asking patients with fever and respiratory symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, myalgia) and recent travel to or from a Flu affected local to self-identify to staff immediately.
- Persons exhibiting symptoms will be advised to use hand hygiene, cover their mouth if coughing or sneezing, and not use public transportation.
- Front desk staff will observe droplet precautions by (1) giving the patient a surgical or procedural mask; (2) if indicated, nurse will wear an N-95 mask; (3) The nurse will be notified of a potential case and escort patient to examination room; (4) instruct patient to wash hands with hand sanitizer; (5) close door to room and post 'Isolation' placard on door; (6) when patient leaves the room should be cleaned according to protocol
- The definition for Flu requires (1) travel within a locale with documented Flu activity; (2) close contact with a Flu patient (usually a household contact); and (3) fever (101 degrees or greater) with cough or sore throat; (4) a positive laboratory test for the specific influenza

The medical staff will:

- Notify the Cowley County Health Department.

Patient Management:

- Explain quarantine measures to patient. Quarantine should be maintained for 24 hours after resolution of symptoms or negative laboratory test.
- Explain and demonstrate good respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Direct patient to the Vice President of Student Affairs to help make arrangements for transportation of patient to family home.
- Refer patient to primary care physician or Dr. Yoachim/ Ark City Clinic for the currently effective antiviral medication if symptoms have existed for less than 48 hours.
- Transfer the patient to hospital if symptoms warrant. Notify hospital of arrival of suspected case of Flu.

Patient Contacts:

- Contacts are defined as anyone who had face-to-face contact with a confirmed positive case patient in the 10 days before onset of illness.
- Contacts should be monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms for 10 days following their last exposure to a confirmed positive case.
- Notify the Cowley County Health Department.

The local health officials may place contacts on home quarantine. Routine use of antiviral medications for prophylaxis is not recommended for asymptomatic contacts. Contacts with fever and at least one symptom of flu should be tested for influenza and placed on home isolation until test results are known.

Individuals arriving from a Flu affected locale within the past 10 days and are asymptomatic may engage in normal activities. Those exhibiting mild symptoms would be strongly recommended to self-isolate for 72 hours at home with a primary care giver monitoring their health status. Laboratory tests to detect influenza may be performed. If symptoms resolve, that patient may return to normal activities 24 hours after resolution of symptoms. If symptoms worsen, the patient should seek further medical recommendations.

Epidemic Flu in the campus community:

- The President, in consultation with the Public Health authorities, may cancel all campus activities when there have been three or more confirmed cases of Flu in the campus population.
- All students, staff, and faculty with respiratory symptoms will be asked to remain at home.
- All asymptomatic students in residence halls will be directed to return home.
- Students exhibiting symptoms will be directed to return home in private vehicles.
- All personnel should cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing and wash their hands frequently.
- Students who cannot travel home will be quarantined in their residence.
- Nurse will triage personnel daily at the Student Health Center.
- Acutely ill persons, ie., those with compromised respiratory function, dehydration, or impending shock, will be transferred to a hospital by private car or EMS.

Vaccination:

- All health care workers should receive the most recent influenza A vaccine cocktail.
- If a Flu vaccine is available, the Student Health Center will administer vaccine to Student Health Care personnel and persons with any chronic medical condition, ie., Asthma, diabetes, immune-compromised, cardiac or pulmonary disorders, would receive first priority for vaccination.

Communication:

- Communication will be handled as outlined in the Crisis Management Plan
- The Director of the Student Health Center will be in frequent contact with the Cowley County Health Department

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