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*To ensure timely,
compassionate and quality
emergency and disaster
medical services.*

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GUIDANCE FOR EMS PROVIDERS FOR SEASONAL INFLUENZA MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR DR. MARIANNE GAUSCHE-HILL

As many of you are aware there has been a tremendous upsurge in cases of influenza. Public Health and the EMS Agency are working together to provide guidance to our health care system. As a part of this effort I am providing some specific recommendations to each of our EMS Provider Agencies, as well as to the EMS providers themselves.

1. EMS providers should be vaccinated yearly for influenza. If you have not been vaccinated, you should obtain an influenza vaccination from your private medical provider. Although there have been rumors about the efficacy of the vaccine, these are unfounded, and vaccination is still recommended as a part of primary prevention of the disease.
2. It is recommended that healthcare workers transporting patients with fever and cough use N95 masks / respirators to protect themselves, especially when in close proximity to the patient such as within the patient care compartment of an ambulance. Also consider routinely placing a surgical or procedure mask on all patients during transport.
3. Optimize the vehicle's ventilation to increase the volume of air exchange during transport. The vehicle's ventilation system should be operated in the non-recirculating mode and should bring in as much outdoor air as possible
4. Follow standard infection control procedures such as standard precautions, recommended procedures for waste disposal and standard practices for disinfection of the emergency vehicle and patient care equipment between each patient.
5. Minimize the opportunity for contamination of supplies and equipment inside of the vehicle and insure that all cabinetry remains closed during transport.



Health Services
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