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**DHEC Health Update**

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## **2009 H1N1 Influenza: Updated Interim CDC Guidance on Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities**

*The information present in this Health Update supersedes previous guidance (dated 13 May 09) in the HDEC Health Update document, "Interim recommendations for infection control for care of patients with confirmed, probable or suspect novel H1N1 influenza" (available at: [www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/han/docs/DHU-flu-4.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/han/docs/DHU-flu-4.pdf)).*

### **Background**

The CDC has released updated interim guidance on infection control measures to prevent transmission of 2009 H1N1 influenza in healthcare facilities. Due to the large amount of information present in this CDC interim guidance, a summary of the topics contained within the guidance is presented below.

The full updated interim CDC guidance is available at the CDC website (at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ill-hcp.htm>).

### **Summary of CDC Interim Guidance on Infection Control**

Specific recommendations contained with this guidance are:

- Promote and administer the 2009 H1N1 influenza and seasonal influenza vaccines,
- Promote respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette,
- Establish facility access control measures and triage procedures,
- Manage visitor access and movement within the facility,
- Establish policies and procedures for patient placement and transport,
- Follow current facility procedures for transport and movement of patients under isolation precautions,
- Limit the number of healthcare personnel entering the isolation room,
- Apply isolation precautions:
  - Standard Precautions - For all patient care, use nonsterile gloves for any contact with potentially infectious material, followed by hand hygiene immediately after glove removal; use gowns along with eye protection for any activity that might generate splashes of respiratory secretions or other infectious material.
  - Respiratory Protection - Use respiratory protection that is at least as protective as a fit-tested disposable N95 respirator for healthcare personnel who are in "close contact" with patients with suspected or confirmed 2009 H1N1 influenza, defined as working within 6

feet of the patient or entering into a small enclosed airspace shared with the patient (e.g., average patient room). Perform hand hygiene frequently, including before and after all patient contact, contact with respiratory secretions, and before putting on and upon removal of PPE.

Shortages of disposable N95 respirators have been reported by many healthcare facilities, and are expected to be an important issue. Facilities should assess the adequacy of their supply stock to cover the performance of aerosol-generating procedures and for managing patients with diseases other than influenza that require respiratory protection (e.g. tuberculosis). Facilities should take measures to maintain a supply of respirators that is sufficient for these key purposes.

Facilities should consider the following steps to get the most benefit from available supplies of respirators:

- Follow a hierarchy of controls with respirators as a last line of defense after first taking steps to:
  1. eliminate exposures,
  2. use engineering controls, and
  3. apply administrative controls, in order to minimize the number of personnel needing respiratory protection.
- Use other types of respirators that are equally or more protective alternatives to disposable N95 respirators (such as powered air-purifying respirators), where feasible, especially in settings such as procedure rooms (e.g. bronchoscopy suites) where higher-risk activities such as aerosol-generating procedures are intermittently performed, and in facilities that have prior experience with these respirators.
- Consider using work practices that extend the use of disposable N95 respirators by either training personnel to wear them during multiple serial patient encounters (i.e. without removing or re-donning between encounters) or to re-use them (i.e. removing and re-donning between patient encounters).
- If shortages are anticipated despite these measures, institute a temporary “prioritized use mode” so that N95s are available for higher risk exposures and surgical masks are used for other exposures.

## Sources for additional information

- Interim Guidance on Infection Control Measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Healthcare Settings, Including Protection of Healthcare Personnel: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ill-hcp.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ill-hcp.htm)
- Questions and Answers Regarding Respiratory Protection for Infection Control Measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza among Healthcare Personnel: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ill-hcp\\_qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ill-hcp_qa.htm)
- Questions and Answers about CDC’s Interim Guidance on Infection Control Measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Healthcare Settings, Including Protection of Healthcare Personnel: [www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/guidance/control\\_measures\\_qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/guidance/control_measures_qa.htm)
- SC DHEC H1N1 Influenza website: [www.scdhec.gov/flu](http://www.scdhec.gov/flu) (click on the link for “Healthcare Professionals”).

## DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of cases of influenza (both seasonal and novel H1N1), aggregate positive influenza rapid tests, positive virus cultures for influenza and influenza deaths are consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2009 List of Reportable Conditions available at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/CR-009025.pdf>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

### Regional Public Health Offices – 2009

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

#### Region 1

##### **Anderson, Oconee**

220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 260-4358  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

##### **Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda**

1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

#### Region 2

##### **Greenville, Pickens**

PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

##### **Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union**

PO Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

#### Region 3

##### **Chester, Lancaster, York**

PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
Phone: (803) 286-9948  
Fax: (803) 286-5418  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

#### Region 3 (continued)

##### **Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland**

2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

#### Region 4

##### **Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter**

PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

##### **Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion**

145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

#### Region 5

##### **Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg**

PO Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 533-7134  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

##### **Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell**

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 643-8386  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or  
1-800-614-1519

#### Region 6

##### **Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg**

1931 Industrial Park Road  
Conway, SC 29526-5482  
Phone: (843) 915-8804  
Fax: (843) 365-0085  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

#### Region 7

##### **Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester**

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 953-0060  
Fax: (843) 953-0051  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

#### Region 8

##### **Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper**

219 S. Lemacks Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: (843) 525-5910  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

#### DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

#### **Categories of Health Alert messages:**

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.