



**MLS: Influenza Laboratory Update #5
MDH Interim 2009 H1N1 Influenza
Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines
are posted
November 6, 2009**



Purpose of this Message:

To inform you of today's newly issued "MDH Interim 2009 H1N1 Influenza Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines."

Background

On October 14, 2009 CDC issued, "Interim Guidance on Infection Control Measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Healthcare Settings" emphasizing the hierarchy of controls. The last step in this hierarchy is PPE, and in this section CDC recommends the use of N95 respirators in the care of patients with suspected or confirmed 2009 H1N1 influenza. A recently published randomized trial found no significant difference in the incidence of laboratory-confirmed influenza among nurses using N95 respirators versus those using surgical masks [1]. However, the CDC Interim Guidance is enforceable by OSHA.

[1] Loeb M, Dafoe N, Mahony J, et al. Surgical mask vs N95 respirator for preventing influenza among health care workers: A randomized trial. JAMA. 2009;302(17):1865-1871.

The MDH Interim Guidelines are posted at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/hcp/ic/icili.html>

At this website you will also find:

1. A memo to Minnesota hospitals. "Memorandum: 2009 H1N1 Influenza - Ensuring Availability of Respiratory Protection Supplies for Priority Uses for Healthcare Personnel Under the CDC Interim Guidance on Infection Control".
2. A tool to assist hospitals in assessing their inventory of respirators. "Healthcare Facility Inventory of Respiratory Protection Equipment."
3. Guidance for accessing and using the state of Minnesota's PPE stockpile. "Use of N95 Respirators and Facemasks from Federally Purchased Caches".

Thank you,

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