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**INFECTION CONTROL AND PATIENT SCREENING CRITERIA (#7150)**


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**1. Rationale:** Patients with severe influenza or disease complications are likely to require emergency transport to the hospital. The following information is designed to protect EMS personnel during transport. EMS personnel are particularly important for surveillance especially regarding avian influenza.

- 1.1 Follow standard and universal precautions (gloves, mask, eye protection) when transporting symptomatic patients. Use a gown if splash is possible.
- 1.2 If any influenza-like illness is in the community, place a procedure or surgical mask on the patient to contain droplets. If this is not possible (e.g.: a mask would further compromise respiratory status or too difficult for the patient to wear), have the patient cover his/her mouth/nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or use the most practical alternative to contain respiratory secretions.
- 1.3 Unless medically necessary to support life, avoid aerosol generating procedures (e.g., mechanical ventilation.)
- 1.4 Optimize the vehicle's ventilation to increase the volume of air exchange during transport.
- 1.5 Follow standard operating procedures for routine cleaning of the emergency vehicle and reusable patient care equipment.
- 1.6 **Special considerations for possible avian influenza.** Screen patients requiring emergency transport for the following:



**A. Documented fever >38°C (100.4°F)**

**AND**

**B. One or more of these symptoms**

- ✓ Muscle pain
- ✓ Cough, with or without sputum production
- ✓ Breathing difficulty
- ✓ Shortness of breath
- ✓ Chest pain

**PLUS**

**C. At least one of the following exposures within 10 days of symptom onset.**

Travel to an area with documented avian (H5N1) influenza in poultry, wild birds and/or humans with at least one of the following:

- ✓ Direct contact with (e.g. touching) sick or dead domestic poultry
- ✓ Direct contact with surfaces contaminated with poultry feces
- ✓ Consumption of raw or incompletely cooked poultry or poultry products
- ✓ Direct contact with sick or dead wild birds suspected or confirmed to have influenza H5N1, or close contact (within 3 feet) of a person who was hospitalized or died due to unexplained respiratory illness
- ✓ Close contact (within 3 feet) with an ill patient who was confirmed or suspected to have H5N1, or exposure to live influenza H5N1 virus in a laboratory

**If all three criteria (A, B and C) are met, inform the receiving facility and the Public Health Department (through ALCO-CMED) that you may have a suspected case of avian influenza A.**