

# Kings County Department of Public Health

Infection Control Recommendations in an Outpatient Setting for H1N1 as well as other Influenzas.  
(Excerpted from the California Department of Public Health)

## Patient Guidance:

- Patients who report mild illness **AND** who have no medical conditions that place them at higher risk of complications from influenza need not be seen in the office. These patients can be screened by phone, given symptomatic treatment recommendations, and instructed to contact their physician for any signs of worsening severity of illness.
- Patients may present before calling the office. Signs in appropriate language for your population should be posted at entrances.

An example of a sign follows.

## To all patients:

To prevent the transmission of Swine Flu to healthcare workers and other patients, please follow these instructions:

**If you have a fever and sore throat, new cough, or runny nose**

### PLEASE

1. Inform the assistant at the front desk of your symptoms.
2. Place a surgical mask, located (location of mask instructions) over your nose and mouth before entering this health care facility.
3. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve;
4. Dispose of tissues in the nearest waste receptacle after use; and
5. Perform hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions.

**Thank You for Protecting Other Patients and Healthcare Workers!**

## Personnel Guidance:

- Staff should remember to provide a disposable face mask for any patient who presents with signs of respiratory symptoms. Covering the source is the best protection to limit the spread of droplet infection.
- Gloves should be put on before patient contact and removed when physical contact with the patient is no longer necessary. Gloves should be changed between each patient. Use of gloves is **NOT** a substitute for hand washing.
- Disposable fit tested masks and eye protection should be available for staff and used only if needed.

## Environmental Guidance

- Reusable examination equipment, such as stethoscopes and blood pressure cuffs, should be disinfected with a properly diluted, EPA-approved, germicidal solution after use on a patient with influenza-like illness.
- Environmental surfaces should be disinfected with a properly diluted EPA-approved disinfectant after the patient leaves the examination room and before admitting another patient to that room. If demand for examination rooms is high, leave room unoccupied for at least as long as it takes for disinfectant to dry. It is not possible at this time to recommend an optimal time to leave rooms unoccupied between patients.
- Disposable examination gowns and sheets may be disposed of as regular waste.
- No special precautions are required for the handling of laundry.
- Within the clinic, high touch surfaces and items (door knobs, elevator buttons, restrooms, chairs, etc.) should be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

More detailed information can be found at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines\\_infection\\_control.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm)

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl\\_enviroinfection.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_enviroinfection.html).