

10 Steps: Novel H1N1 Influenza Planning and Response for Medical Offices and Outpatient Facilities

These steps and links were excerpted from a CDC article which can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/10steps.htm>.

1. Develop a Business Continuity Plan.

<http://www.ready.gov/business/plan/index.html>.

2. Inform employees about your plan for coping with additional surge during pandemic.

3. Plan to operate your facility if there is significant staff absenteeism.

4. Protect your workplace by asking sick employees to stay home.

What to Do If You Get Flu-Like Symptoms: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/sick.htm>.

5. Plan for a surge of patients and increased demands for your services.

Interim Guidance for H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu): Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home:

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_homecare.htm.

6. Care for patients with novel H1N1 flu in your facility.

Interim Guidance for Clinicians on Identifying and Caring for Patients with Swine-origin Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infection:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/identifyingpatients.htm>.

7. Take steps to protect the health of your workforce during an outbreak of H1N1.

Healthcare Workplaces Classified as Very High or High Exposure Risk for Pandemic Influenza:

<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/exposure-risk-classification-factsheet.html>.

Interim Guidance for Infection Control for Care of Patients with Confirmed or Suspected Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infection in a Healthcare Setting: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm.

Proposed Guidance on Workplace Stockpiling of Respirators and Facemasks for Pandemic Influenza:

<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/stockpiling-facemasks-respirators.html>.

8. Provide immunization against seasonal flu at no cost to your staff.

Influenza Vaccination of Health-Care Personnel:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5502a1.htm?s_cid=rr5502a1_e.

9. Make sure you know about the pandemic planning and response activities of the hospitals, outpatient facilities and local public health in your community.

10. Plan now so you will know where to turn to for reliable, up-to-date information in your local community.

CDC H1N1 Flu: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

Vermont Department of Health: <http://healthvermont.gov/panflu/SwineFlu.aspx>

Change in Follow-up of Giardia Cases:

Starting on September 1, 2009, the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) will no longer conduct case investigations of individual giardia cases. However, healthcare providers are encouraged to contact VDH with any unusual cases or clusters of cases. **Giardia remains a reportable disease**, and confirmed cases should continue to be reported to VDH by the usual methods.

The *Infectious Disease Bulletin* can be viewed at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/IDB/index.aspx>

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