

NAVY POCKET GUIDE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS - PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PROTECTION PROCEDURES*

Setting or Procedure	Minimum Protection Control Considerations ¹
Emergency medical services, e.g., - First aid to patients <u>suspected</u> of having pandemic influenza - Vehicle transport of patients <u>suspected</u> of having pandemic influenza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensure patients wear surgical masks. * Health care providers use standard precautions² and wear N95 filtering facepiece respirators OR half mask or full face negative pressure elastomeric respirators equipped with N95 filters.^{3,4,5}
Initial diagnosis of patients suspected of having pandemic influenza and care of patients known to have pandemic influenza.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Isolate infected individuals (patients can be grouped in a common isolation area). * Ensure patients wear surgical masks. * Health care providers use standard precautions² and wear N95 filtering facepiece respirator OR half mask or full face negative pressure elastomeric respirators equipped with N95 filters.^{3,4,5}
Performing procedures that have a high probability of generating aerosols containing influenza viruses. Examples include cough-producing procedures (e.g., bronchoscopy, endotracheal intubation, sputum induction, and nebulizer treatment) and during autopsy or embalming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Perform procedures in negative pressure isolation rooms that have 6 to 12 air changes per hour and are exhausted directly outside. * Health care providers use standard precautions². Also wear head covers, shoe covers, and single use plastic aprons. * Health care providers wear either FDA-cleared surgical N95 respirator⁶ OR half mask or full face negative pressure elastomeric respirators equipped with N95 filters.^{3,4,5} Use Powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) equipped with HEPA⁷ filters for high risk medical procedures that generate high levels of bioaerosols.
General population - Giving care at home to patients <u>suspected</u> of having pandemic influenza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Caregiver wear N95 filtering facepiece respirator if feasible. * Isolate the patient, including separate bathroom facilities if possible. * When possible, patient should wear surgical mask when others are in the room. * Care provider washes hands with soap and warm running water before and after patient contact. * Wash laundry and eating utensils with detergent and warm water. * Clean soiled surfaces with household disinfectants.

¹ Establish a group of clinical and non-clinical health care staff prepared to take care of pandemic influenza patients and ensure this group is properly trained and provided with appropriate prophylaxis.

² Standard precautions include washing hands carefully for 15 - 20 seconds with warm running water and soap or use alcohol-based hand rub before and after patient contact, and use of fluid resistant long sleeve disposable gowns, gloves, and eye protection (face shield, visor, or goggles).

³ Per OPNAVINST 5100.23, Chapter 15, when respirators are worn in an occupational setting, implement a complete respiratory protection program. MTFs that have never needed respirators should note that it takes time to train a qualified program manager to implement the respirator program, which includes medical screening, fit testing, respirator maintenance and training.

⁴After respirator use:

- (1) Do not reuse N95 respirators or replaceable particulate filters after exposure to influenza viruses.
- (2) Dispose of used filtering facepiece respirators and replaceable filters as medical waste.
- (3) Clean and sanitize elastomeric respirators after use.

⁵ While disposable respirators may be more convenient and cheaper on a per unit basis, reusable respirators may be more economical on a long-term basis and reduce impact of disruption in supply chains or shortages of disposable respirators.

⁶ Surgical N95 respirators are certified by NIOSH as respirators and also cleared by FDA as medical devices which have been tested under ASTM F 1862-00a: Standard Test Method for Resistance of Surgical Mask to Penetration by Synthetic Blood.

⁷ HEPA - high efficiency particulate air

*This Pocket Guide is based on information from the following sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.Pandemicflu.gov, OASD (HA) Apr 2007 "Pandemic Influenza: Clinical Guidelines for the Military Health Systems", "6 Feb 2007 OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic", and Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).