

ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF VICTORIA

**AiSV**

# Influenza Pandemic

## Information for School Nurses and Medical Staff

2006

## Information for school nurses, medical staff

### Infection Control Procedures

Specific detailed information regarding the clinical management of those suspected or confirmed as having avian influenza are provided in detail by the World Health Organisation available on the link provided.

Should a pandemic outbreak occur in Victoria, Health officials will advise of procedures to be followed.

It is possible that, in rare instances, a school may identify a school member as having a suspected case of avian influenza.

In schools that provide boarding facilities and medical services initial management of suspected cases may be required and identification of symptomology may occur at school. In such cases standard infection control precautions must be maintained, plus exposure history and transmission specific practices implemented if the illness is suspected of being avian influenza.

It is recommended that school medical staff be familiar with the current guidelines described by the World health Organisation and implemented. Detailed management information for medical staff is available from Avian Influenza, including A (H5N1) in Humans: World Health Organisation Interim Infection Control Guidelines for Health Care Facilities. (Amended 9 February 2006)

[www.wpro.who.int?NR/rdonlyres/EA6D9DF3-688D4316-91DF-5553E7B/DBCD/0/InfectionControlAIinhumansWHOInterimGuidelinesfor.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int?NR/rdonlyres/EA6D9DF3-688D4316-91DF-5553E7B/DBCD/0/InfectionControlAIinhumansWHOInterimGuidelinesfor.pdf)

### Personal Protection for school first aid providers

Masks recommended:

- √ N95 or P2 masks able to filter 0.3µm particles are recommended
- √ Standard surgical masks if N95 or P2 are unavailable
- √ Suspected avian influenza patients are advised to wear masks

During clinical assessment

- √ Wear a gown, goggles and mask with gloves during assessment of suspected pandemic case
- √ Switch off air-conditioning, close door and open external window if possible
- √ Practice standard infection control procedures with a focus on hand washing, disinfection and disposal of objects potentially contaminated by respiratory secretions

- √ Advise ambulance staff of potential contaminant status and advise to take infection control measures

#### Transmission based precautions

- √ Droplet precautions
- √ Contact precautions
- √ Airborne precautions including the use of high efficiency masks

#### Precautions should be implemented while the patient is infectious

- √ Adults (over 12 years of age) - precautions must be implemented at the time of admission and continued until 7 days elapse since resolution of fever
- √ Children (under 12 years of age) - precautions to be implemented at time of admission and continued until 21 days have lapsed since onset of illness

### **Infection Control Equipment Checklist**

N95 or P2 masks

Gowns

Goggles

Gloves

Disinfectant, the virus is inactivated by 70% alcohol and by chlorine

Hazardous materials disposal bags

### **How to fit and remove a protective gown**

**Fitting** Put on the gown so that your front and arms are fully covered and the gown is opening at the back.

Fasten the ties at the neck and back.

Tuck gown sleeves under glove cuffs.

### **Removing and disposing of personal protective equipment**

With clean hands, untie or break the ties at back and neck.

Touch only the inside of the gown; pull from neck and shoulders and then arms, turning the gown inside out as you remove it.

Roll gown into a bundle and put in a hazardous waste bag.

Wash hands or use an alcohol based rub.

## **Order of removal of personal protective equipment**

Gloves

Wash hands or use alcohols based rub

Goggles

Gown

Mask

Wash hands or use alcohol based rub<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Health and Ageing