

Ambulance Service: Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Suspected or Confirmed Influenza¹

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v 3.1

When the Ambulance Control Centre is informed that a patient is suspected or confirmed to have seasonal influenza the following precautions should be taken by ambulance personnel:

1. On arrival to the house/transfer facility

A. Decontaminate hands (alcohol gel/rub)

B. Routine care:

- **≥ 5 years of age:** Wear surgical mask. Plastic apron/gown gloves & goggles if risk of blood or body fluids exposure anticipated as per Standard Precautions.
- **< 5 years of age:** Wear surgical mask, gloves and plastic apron/gown (goggles if risk of spraying or splashing of blood or body fluids).

C. Aerosol generating procedures (AGP) and while remaining in or entering patients' room within one hour of cessation of an AGP (refer to [Aerosol Generating Procedure Document](#) for updated list of AGPs)

- FFP2 or FFP3 mask (fit check to ensure a good seal), goggles, long sleeved disposable gown and gloves ([Donning and removing PPE document](#))

¹ This is a summary document – refer to <http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/Respiratory/Influenza/SeasonalInfluenza/Infectioncontroladvice/> for detailed infection control advice for healthcare professionals

2. Inform the hospital of the admission/transfer of a potentially infectious person

3. Before leaving the house/healthcare facility

- Request patient to wear a surgical mask and advise of [Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette](#)
- A patient with suspected or confirmed flu should not travel with any other patients

4. In ambulance

- Wash hands before, after and change gloves if applicable patient contact.
- Use single use or single patient use medical equipment where possible
- Use disposable linen if available

5. Arrival to hospital

- **Before the patient leaves the ambulance** ensure arrangements are in place for receipt of the patient
- Transfer patient to the care of hospital staff
- After transfer of patient remove PPE ([Donning and removing PPE document](#))

6. Before ambulance is used again

- **Cleaning and disinfecting** (wear appropriate PPE while cleaning)
 - Surfaces (stretcher, chair, door handles etc) should be cleaned with a detergent and a hypochlorite solution 1000ppm
- **Laundry**
 - Place reusable blankets in an alginate bag, then into a red laundry bag and send for laundering
- **Medical equipment**
 - Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning/disinfecting reusable equipment
- **Management of waste**
 - All masks and any waste contaminated with blood or body fluid (including respiratory secretions) should be disposed of as Healthcare Risk waste
- **Management of sharps** – per [Standard Precautions](#)
- **Management of spillages of blood and body fluids** – per [Standard Precautions](#)