

## ***Limitation of healthcare personnel entering the isolation room***

Healthcare personnel entering the room of a patient in isolation should be limited to those performing direct patient care.

## ***Isolation precautions***

Standard and Contact precautions plus eye protection should be used for all patient care activities for patients being evaluated or in isolation for swine influenza A (H1N1) (i.e., including all healthcare personnel who enter the patient's room). Maintain adherence to hand hygiene by washing with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after removing gloves and other equipment and after any contact with respiratory secretions.

Nonsterile gloves and gowns along with eye protection should be donned upon room entry. (See <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ppe.html>)

**Respiratory protection:** All healthcare personnel who enter the rooms of patients in isolation for swine influenza should wear a fit-tested disposable N95 respirator or equivalent (e.g., powered air purifying respirator)\*. Respiratory protection should be donned upon room entry.

Note that this recommendation differs from current infection control guidance for seasonal influenza, which recommends that healthcare personnel wear surgical masks for patient care. The rationale for the use of respiratory protection is that a more conservative approach is needed until more is known about the specific transmission characteristics of this new virus. This recommendation is also outlined in the in the in the October 2006 "Interim Guidance on Planning for the Use of Surgical Masks and Respirators in Healthcare Settings during an Influenza Pandemic" <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/maskguidancehc.html>.

## ***Management of visitors***

Limit visitors to patients in isolation for swine influenza A virus (H1N1) infection to persons who are necessary for the patient's emotional well-being and care. Visitors who have been in contact with the patient before and during hospitalization are a possible source of swine influenza A virus (H1N1). Therefore, schedule and control visits to allow for appropriate screening for acute respiratory illness before entering the hospital and appropriate instruction on use of personal protective equipment and other precautions (e.g., hand hygiene, limiting surfaces touched) while in the patient's room. Visitors should be instructed to limit their movement within the facility.

Visitors may be offered a gown, gloves, eye protection, and respiratory protection (i.e., N95 respirator) and should be instructed by healthcare personnel on their use before entering the patient's room.

## ***Duration of precautions***

Isolation precautions should be continued for seven (7) days from symptom onset or until the resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer.

Persons with swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection should be considered potentially contagious from one day before to 7 days following illness onset. Persons who continue to be ill longer than 7 days after illness onset should be considered potentially contagious until symptoms have resolved. Children, especially younger children, might be contagious for longer periods.