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**Janie Miller**  
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**KENTUCKY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY: NOVEL INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS INFECTION**

**Modifications of Existing CDC Recommendations about Infection Control Precautions, including Facemask and N95 Respirator Use, for Healthcare Personnel (HCP)**

The Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) recommends the following modifications to the interim guidance and interim recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the care of patients with novel H1N1 influenza in all inpatient, outpatient, and pre-hospital healthcare settings:

- Patients with a confirmed, probable or suspected case of novel H1N1 influenza can be cared for with both standard and droplet precautions, rather than airborne precautions. Such patients *may* be placed in private rooms, rather than negative pressure rooms, with appropriate use of gloves, facemasks (e.g. *surgical* masks), gowns and hand washing by HCP. Face shields or eye protection should be used, as indicated, for patient care activities with risk for exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions. Patients on droplet precautions who must be transported or are likely to come into contact with the general public should wear a facemask if tolerated and follow procedures for respiratory hygiene / cough etiquette.
- Current use of N95 respirators or higher-level respirators should be limited and confined to instances of direct airway manipulation (e.g., bronchoscopy, intubation, nasopharyngeal suction).
- If N95 respirators are either not available or in short supply, please follow the CDC **Interim Domestic Guidance on the Use of Respirators to Prevent Transmission of SARS**, May 3, 2005: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/respirators.htm> .

These Kentucky modifications of current CDC recommendations are consistent with World Health Organization recommendations and Canadian guidelines for care of cases of novel H1N1 influenza. Other states have also implemented similar modifications since May 2009. These Kentucky modifications enable the practicable implementation of respiratory protection programs during the current influenza pandemic, considering that equipment and resource availability may be limited.

These Kentucky modifications should also be appropriate for all inpatient, outpatient and pre-hospital healthcare settings with a confirmed, probable or suspected case of seasonal influenza.

Healthcare personnel should consistently practice hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene.

DPH will periodically review and update this guidance as new scientific findings are published.