

Wichita State University Pandemic Influenza Plan

Introduction:

This plan outlines the management of any epidemic or pandemic event caused by any influenza strain with sustained human-to-human transmission.

Purpose:

The Wichita State University Health Risk Assessment Team (HRAT) has created the Pandemic Influenza Plan to guide WSU in preparing for and responding to an epidemic or pandemic seasonal influenza event. The purpose of this plan is to minimize the impact of an influenza epidemic or pandemic on students, faculty and staff at Wichita State University.

Objectives include:

- a. Identification and monitoring of seasonal influenza activity and significant influenza-like illnesses occurring in local, state, national, and world areas that could affect the campus community.
- b. Prevention and case management measures to protect the lives, safety and health of university students, faculty and staff.
- c. Communication to the President's Executive Team (PET) regarding seasonal influenza activity and response.

Identification and monitoring:

Student Health Services personnel and the Office of Environmental Health & Safety will monitor local, state, national and world influenza development and activity by regularly checking the following resources:

Websites resources:

- Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD) at www.sedgwickcounty.org/healthdept/
- Kansas Department of Health Education at www.kdheks.gov
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/flu/
- World Health Organization at www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/

Email updates from the following resources:

- SCHD EpiLink updates
- Kansas Health Area Network updates
- CDC Health Area Network updates

Prevention and Case Management

Identification of sustained human-to-human transmission of influenza or an influenza-like illness in any geographic locale will provoke the following actions:

Alert the Crisis Management Team/PET and HRAT members.

Student Health Services will:

- Advise students, staff, and faculty about health risks, symptoms, and preventive measures to use if travel to affected locales is unavoidable.
- Personnel returning from affected locales will be reminded to monitor their own health and report symptoms that occur within 10 – 14 days of travel.
- Student Health will post a sign at the entrance of the Student Health Services department asking patients with fever and respiratory symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, and myalgia) and recent travel to or from influenza affected locales to self-identify to staff immediately.
- Persons exhibiting influenza symptoms will be advised to use hand hygiene, cover their mouth if coughing or sneezing, monitor their temperature and not use public transportation or attend classes/work if temperature is equal to or greater than 101 degrees. Individuals should contact their health care provider for further instructions.
- If a student presents at Student Health and is exhibiting symptoms of an influenza-like illness as listed above, the front desk staff will observe the following droplet precautions measures:
 1. Provide a surgical mask for the patient to wear when warranted.
 2. If indicated, front clerical staff will wear an N-95 mask or other protective mask.
 3. The nursing staff will be notified and escort patient to a pre-determined special examination room.
 4. Instruct patient to clean hands with hand sanitizer.
 5. Close door to room and post "Isolation" placard on door.
 6. Personal protective equipment will be used by nursing staff as indicated.
 7. When patient leaves, the room should be cleaned according to protocol.
- The definition for potential influenza-like illness requires (1) travel within a locale with documented influenza activity; (2) close contact with an influenza patient (usually a household contact); (3) fever of 101 degrees or greater with cough or sore throat; and (4) confirmatory laboratory test if clinically indicated.

The Student Health staff will:

- Collect specimens when indicated. Specimen collection for seasonal influenza typically includes: (1) one naso-pharyngeal (NP) swab in viral transport media for virus isolation and (2) one NP in a sterile tube for PCR tests. Specimen collection may change based on

the current recommendations from Center for Disease Control and Prevention, SCHD or lab services.

- Notify the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Laboratory or laboratory of choice. Specimens should arrive at the laboratory within 24 hours.
- Notify patient of positive laboratory test and follow-up according to proper guidelines for the particular virus.
- Report confirmation of positive laboratory testing for any new variations of the influenza virus to the SCHD.

Patient management:

- Explain quarantine or isolation measures to patient, if indicated. These measures should be maintained for 24 hours after resolution of symptoms or negative laboratory test.
- Explain and demonstrate good respiratory hygiene, cough/sneeze etiquette and hand washing.
- Direct patient to the campus resource that can help make arrangements for transportation of patient to family home if advised.
- Provide treatment if clinically indicated.

Patient Contacts:

- Contacts are defined as anyone who had close face-to-face contact with a confirmed positive case patient in the 3 days before onset of illness.
- Contacts should be monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms for 10 days following their last exposure to a confirmed positive case and treated accordingly when needed.
- The local health officials may place contacts on home quarantine. Routine use of antiviral medications for prophylaxis is not recommended for asymptomatic contacts.
- Individuals arriving from an influenza affected locale within the past 10 days and are asymptomatic may engage in normal activities following the guidelines outlined by the state and local Health Department.

Epidemic influenza in the campus community:

- The President or the President's designee, in consultation with the local Public Health authorities, may cancel all campus activities when deemed appropriate. Refer to WSU's Emergency Operations Plan for more information.

- All students, staff, and faculty with epidemic influenza symptoms will be asked to remain at home.
- All asymptomatic students in residence halls may be directed to return home.
- Students exhibiting epidemic influenza symptoms will be directed to return home in private vehicles.
- All personnel should cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing and wash their hands frequently or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Students who cannot travel home will be quarantined or isolated in their residence hall according to Health Department guidelines.
- One or two medical providers will triage personnel daily at the Student Health.
- Acutely ill persons, i.e., those with compromised respiratory function, dehydration, or impending shock, will be transferred to a hospital by ambulance.

Vaccination:

- All health care workers should receive the most recent seasonal influenza vaccine cocktail.
- If an influenza vaccine is available, Student Health will administer vaccine to their personnel and others on campus according to Health Department guidelines.
- Point of Dispensing plan may be activated in cooperation with SCHED for mass vaccination in an epidemic or pandemic event.

Communication

- Communication will be handled as outlined in the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- The Director of the Student Health Services will be in frequent contact with the Sedgwick County Health Department.