

Infection Control Guide

Influenza Pandemic

"An influenza pandemic of even moderate impact will result in the biggest single human disaster ever - far greater than AIDS, 9/11, all wars in the 20th century and the recent tsunami combined." Quoted by Michael T. Osterholm, Director, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

The effects of pandemic flu on everyday life are almost unimaginable. Overnight, your familiar world becomes hostile and dangerous. There will be no vaccines during the first wave; production cannot even begin until the virus has re-assorted to allow human-to-human transmission and been genetically identified.

Prevention Is Paramount When There's No Cure

Your first, most effective line of defense against infection will be barrier protection from droplet-borne virus using protective eyewear, medical-grade gloves, face masks and N95 respirators. Extreme caution must be exercised when touching potentially virus-laden hard surfaces such as railings, door knobs, water taps, desktops and handles, telephones and keyboards. Flu viruses can live up to seventy-two hours on hard surfaces. Hard-surface wipes impregnated with alcohol or Polycide should be used to disinfect suspicious surfaces.

Hand-Shaking is a Good Habit to Shake

Our hands are responsible for delivering the majority of infections. The hand-shaking greeting is deeply ingrained; if you forget, be sure to disinfect your hands before touching your mouth, nose or eyes. In the absence of soap and water, use waterless hand wash. Frequent, thorough hand-washing with soap and water, or use of waterless hand sanitizer is the simplest, most effective way to break the chain of infection.

Guidelines for Hard Surfaces

Polycide® Wipes should be used to prevent the risk of cross-contamination on hard surfaces where there are multiple users of equipment, computers, work stations, telemarketing equipment and other types of equipment. Polycide Wipes are safe for use on all types of surfaces including computer keyboards and other electronic devices. Repeat application each time a new exposure exists.

One Step® Wipes should be used whenever there is a risk of cross-contamination because of hands coming in contact with potentially contaminated surfaces. Since viruses have discovered ways to hide in water-droplets, desiccated feces and even dust, constant hand sanitation is the first line of defense against infection.