



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EDWARD L. MORENO, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR-HEALTH OFFICER

June 17, 2009

Dear Camp Operators:

Reported outbreaks of acute viral gastroenteritis, especially those associated with Norovirus, continue to occur with increased frequency. Additionally, a new virus, identified as the novel H1N1 virus (previously known as swine flu) was recently detected in the United States, including three cases in Fresno County. This virus is spread person-to-person causing illness similar to the seasonal influenza. These viral outbreaks may commonly happen in skilled nursing homes, or other congregate residential facilities.

There are several factors, when combined in youth camp settings, which facilitate the transmission of disease. These factors include the ability of viruses to spread person to person, multiple ways to transmit the virus, and the fact that a very low amount of virus is sufficient to cause illness.

Symptoms for acute viral gastroenteritis may include a sudden onset of vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, headaches, a low grade or no fever at all, and occur approximately 24 – 48 hours after exposure. Symptoms for novel H1N1 virus are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. It has also been noted that a significant number of people who have been infected with the novel H1N1 virus have reported diarrhea and vomiting.

If the number of illness reports of gastroenteritis or influenza exceeds your normal expectation for the camp season, or you suspect a common source for illnesses that are occurring, please contact the Community Health Division at (559) 445-3324 immediately for support, guidance and direction.

In order to minimize the potential for an outbreak occurring in your camp, the following preventative measures shall be implemented: all campers and employees must be screened upon arrival for symptoms of illness, infected campers and employees must be isolated from non-infected campers and employees, all infected campers and employees must be prohibited from any type of food handling for a minimum of 72 hours after symptoms subside, and all staff and counselors shall monitor and strictly enforce hand washing.

If an acute viral gastroenteritis outbreak occurs at your facility, the enclosed document entitled "Protocols for Prevention of Illness Outbreaks at Organized Camps" shall be implemented to minimize and help effectively manage the gastroenteritis outbreak through increased frequency and cleaning of affected areas utilizing a stronger concentration of disinfection solution.

Dedicated to Public Health

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If a novel H1N1 viral outbreak occurs, the attached interim guidance document, prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall be implemented to minimize the spread of illness amongst camp attendees, staff, volunteers and visitors.

Also included is a line-listing form for camp staff to compile data on ill campers and employees. This form shall be completed and submitted via fax to the Fresno County Community Health Division should an outbreak occur at your facility. The line-listing form can be faxed to (559) 445-3535.

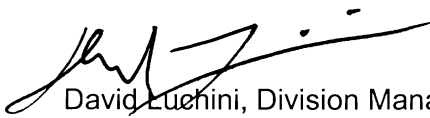
If an outbreak cannot be promptly contained, temporary closure of the camp facilities may be required to break the cycle of infection. Immediate response by camp personnel is essential to minimize impacts to campers, employees and visitors.

If you have any questions regarding the handouts, or would like more information on Norovirus or novel H1N1 virus, please contact the Community Health Division at (559) 445-3324. By providing you this information in advance, we can partner together to ensure that all campers have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Respectfully,



Tim L. Casagrande, Director
Environmental Health Division



David Luchini, Division Manager
Community Health Division

TLC:DL:slk

Enclosures

c: Edward L. Moreno, M.D., M.P.H., Director – Health Officer
Kathleen A. Grassi, Assistant Director
Ken Bird, M.D., Deputy Health Officer

Protocols for Prevention of Illness Outbreaks At Organized Camps

- Disinfect all horizontal surfaces beginning with the cleanest surface then moving to the dirtiest surface. For example; restrooms: clean lavatories/sinks, faucets, soap dispensers and finally toilets and floors. **Sanitizing solution shall consist of a minimum of ½ cup of bleach for every gallon of water.**
- Sanitizing solution shall be discarded between cleaning each facility (restroom, cabin, etc.) or shall be discarded more frequently if the facility is heavily soiled.
- Route of cleaning for cabins & dorms – door handles, horizontal surfaces, bed frames, mattress pads and floors. Porous items in cabins or dorms (i.e. rugs, pillows, etc.) shall be removed.
- Frequencies of cleaning for public areas such as restrooms shall be increased to 4x per day or more. Cleanup shall be immediate in areas such as restrooms, cabins, cafeteria/dining hall, etc. where an illness event has occurred. Additional measures shall be implemented to provide cleaning during nighttime hours.
- Increase the chlorine residual in the swimming pools and maintain a minimum of 3.0 ppm at all times.
- Disinfect all drinking fountains. Ensure that ice machines have been sanitized thoroughly. All ice shall be discarded for any ice machine that has the scoop left inside the machine. Ice scoops must be stored in a smooth, washable container outside of the machine.
- Submit to this Department for review and approval written instructions to be provided to all existing and incoming camp counselors that describes the protocol to be followed for reporting illnesses to the infirmary, reporting the location of illness events, handling ill campers during day and night hours, monitoring campers for washing their hands, etc.
- Increase number of isolation cabins to accommodate every ill camper. **Do not allow the return of symptomatic campers back to their cabins until vomiting and/or diarrhea events have ceased for a minimum of 24 hours.** Instruct patients to return to the infirmary immediately if symptoms reappear.
- All ill staff shall refrain from working for a minimum of 48 hours after symptoms cease. This includes non-food handling staff.
- Provide weekly updates via FAX two times per week every Wednesday & Friday by 3:00pm. All information shall be documented on the line listing form prepared and provided to you by the Department of Community Health. The line listing form shall document the following information: name, date of birth (DOB), camp, cabin assigned, time of symptom onset, description of symptoms, and job duties if illness is reported by a staff member.

INTERIM GUIDANCE – CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL

This document provides interim guidance on suggested means to reduce the spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus in day, residential, or overnight camp settings. Recommendations are interim, based on current knowledge of the H1N1 outbreak in the United States, and may be revised as more information becomes available.

General Recommendations and Preparedness for Camps

- Develop a working relationship with local health officials and plan jointly for possible contingencies during this summer camp season. Plans should include what to do if staff or camp participants become ill, including how to separate them from others to limit spreading influenza to other staff and campers, when to seek additional medical evaluation, and how to provide care for them. Camp administrators should work with local health departments to develop mechanisms and protocols for monitoring *influenza-like illness (ILI)* and any requirements for reporting ILI among campers or camp staff.
- Review any applicable state laws regarding camp requirements around public health issues. Assure compliance with these requirements. See [Camps and State Regulations](#)
- Consider pre-planning with parents/guardians regarding how illnesses or health emergencies among children attending the camp will be handled. Arrangements should also be made with the parents/guardians of staff, volunteers and other campers who are legally minors. Include logistics for transportation of ill persons for medical care or return home that limits exposures to other persons, multiple ways to contact parents/guardians, agreement for care and isolation at the camp (if applicable), and planning for additional medical evaluation or emergency care.
- Develop a training program for camp staff regarding communicable disease prevention including specific information on how to recognize ILI and how to report possible cases of ILI to camp leadership.
- Educational materials and information should be provided to campers in a way that is age-appropriate and can be understood by both English and non-English speakers. Spanish-language materials are available at: [CDC H1N1 Flu \(in Spanish\)](#). Materials and information in other languages are available at: [CDC websites in other languages](#) and [Illinois Department of Public Health](#).

Reduction of Risk of Introduction of Novel H1N1 Virus into the Camp Setting

- Provide camp attendees, staff and volunteers with materials prior to arrival at the camp to notify them that they are not allowed to attend camp if they have had an ILI in the 7 days prior to the start of the camp. In addition, they should be reminded that if they have been exposed to a person with novel H1N1 or ILI in the 7 days prior to the start of camp, they may attend camp but should closely self-monitor and report development of ILI symptoms immediately.
- Consider active screening of ALL newly arriving camp attendees, staff and volunteers by asking if they have had any symptoms of ILI in the previous 7 days. Provide education to individual campers about reporting ILI. A careful health history of each arriving camper should be taken. Note any conditions that may place them at high risk for complications of influenza.

- Camp attendees, staff and volunteers should be instructed to immediately inform camp management if they currently have or have had an influenza-like illness (ILI) in the 7 days prior to arrival.
- Persons who currently have or have had ILI in the previous 7 days should not attend camp for 7 days after their symptoms began or until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer.

Rapid Detection and Management of Cases of ILI in the Camp Setting

- Camp staff and volunteers should be diligent about early recognition of illness and rapid isolation of those that are experiencing ILI symptoms. See [Interim Guidance for Clinicians on Identifying and Caring for Patients with Swine-origin Influenza A \(H1N1\) Virus Infection](#)
- Campers who develop ILI should be immediately separated from the general population and kept away from well campers until they can be safely returned home or taken for medical care, if needed, OR for at least 7 days after symptoms began or 24 hours after symptoms resolve, whichever is longer (if the child is to remain at a residential camp).
- Protocols should be in place for when medical evaluation of persons ill with ILI should be done and how monitoring will be conducted. Not all patients with suspected novel influenza (H1N1) infection need to be seen by a health care provider. Patients with severe illness and those at high risk for complications from influenza should contact their medical provider or seek medical care.
- Aspirin or aspirin-containing products should not be administered to any person aged 18 years old and younger with a confirmed or suspected case of influenza virus infection, due to the risk of Reye syndrome. Refer to pediatric medical management for guidance regarding use of any medications, especially those containing aspirin. See [Novel H1N1 Influenza: Resources for Clinicians](#).
- If individual rooms for persons with ILI are not feasible, consider using a large room, cabin or tent specifically for ill persons with beds at least 6 feet apart and, if possible, with temporary barriers between beds and nearby bathroom facilities separate from bathrooms used by healthy campers.
- Linens, eating utensils, and dishes used by those who are sick do not need to be cleaned separately, but they should not be shared without thorough washing. Linens (such as bed sheets and towels) should be washed in hot water using laundry soap and tumbled dry on a hot setting. Individuals should wash their hands with soap and water immediately after handling dirty laundry.
- Designate staff to care for ill persons and limit their interaction with other campers during their shift to decrease the risk of spreading influenza to other parts of the camp. See [Antiviral Chemoprophylaxis for Novel \(H1N1\) Influenza](#).
- Anyone with a medical condition that would increase their risk of severe illness from influenza, including pregnant women, should NOT be designated as caregivers for ill persons.
- For proper technique in caring for an ill person, refer to the following guidance: [Interim Guidance for H1N1 Flu \(Swine Flu\): Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home](#).
- For information on the use of masks and respirators, see: [Interim Recommendations for Facemask and Respirator Use to Reduce Novel Influenza A \(H1N1\) Virus Transmission](#).
- Close contacts (such as roommates) of persons with ILI should be encouraged to self-monitor for ILI symptoms and report illness to camp officials.

Illness Outbreak Line Listing

Camp Name:

Contact Person:

Phone:

Week of Camp Session:

Last Name	First Name	DOB	Cabin Name/No.	Staff or Camper?	Date of Onset	Nausea	Vomiting	Diarrhea	ABD Pain	Fever	Other, please specify	Staff/Camper sent home?	Staff/Camper isolated? If so, where?	Date Resolved
1						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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14						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
15						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
16						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
17						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
18						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
19						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
20						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

If the number of illness reports exceeds your norm for the camp season, or you suspect a common source for illnesses, please Fax to the Communicable Disease Division at (559) 445-3535.