



**KITTITAS COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION**

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Office of the:  
MEDICAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR      EMS COORDINATOR      EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**TO:**            Kittitas County EMS Personnel  
                  Kittitas County EMS Agency Chiefs and Supervisors

**FR:**            Jackson S. Horsley, MD  
                  Medical Program Director

**RE:**            **INFECTION CONTROL FOR HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL**

**DATE:**        November 1, 2005

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In the interest of infection control for prehospital health care personnel, I recommend that all EMS agencies and EMS providers meet or exceed the Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations in the Guideline for Infection Control in Healthcare Personnel, 1998, Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings, 2002, and the Washington State Department of Health, Infectious Disease Prevention for EMS Providers, revised October 1997. Updated publications supersede those referenced.

**In addition to personal protective equipment standards followed for infection control year round, I recommend the CDC Guidelines and Recommendations for Interim Guidance for the Use of Masks to Control Influenza Transmission.**

As well, I recommend that all EMS providers have an awareness and understanding of the potential for an Influenza Pandemic. See the CDC Fact Sheet Information about Influenza Pandemics.

“The Kittitas County Public Health Department concurs with the recommendations by the Kittitas County Emergency Management Council, EMS, and KVCH for preventing transmission of respiratory disease in healthcare facilities. These recommendations include implementing a respiratory hygiene strategy to minimize transmission of respiratory diseases (including common infections such as influenza and other respiratory viruses, pertussis, tuberculosis, SARS, and avian influenza) in patient care settings.

Healthcare workers, including EMS and ER staff, should practice Droplet Precautions (i.e., wearing a designated mask for close patient contact and/or when performing procedures and patient care activities that are likely to generate sprays of respiratory infection. Droplet Precautions should be maintained until it is determined that they are no longer needed.”

Recommendations will be incorporated into infectious disease prevention classes for ongoing and initial training classes.

Additional documents and publications regarding infectious diseases, prevention recommendations and guidelines, and influenza pandemic information can be obtained from the DHHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov).

Links to documents referenced:

Guideline for Infection Control in Healthcare Personnel, 1998

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/guide/InfectControl98.pdf>

Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings, 2002

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5116a1.htm>

Infectious Disease Prevention for EMS Providers, rev. 10/1997

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/publications.htm#Miscellaneous%20Education%20and%20Training%20Documents>

Interim Guidance for the use of Masks to Control Influenza Transmission, August 8, 2005 (enclosed)

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/maskguidance.htm>

Information About Influenza Pandemics, October 17, 2005 (enclosed)

[http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/pdf/pandemic\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/pdf/pandemic_factsheet.pdf)