

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC PROTOCOL

General Comment:

In the event that there is a public health or safety emergency in which health care resources are overwhelmed by demand, the EMT response will have to adapt to the severity of the situation and the available resources. This Influenza Pandemic protocol is to be used as a guide in the development of a local plan (based on the severity of the situation and the available resources) remembering that the local situation will change frequently, perhaps daily or hourly. This protocol is assuming that an Influenza Pandemic has overwhelmed the medical community and normal EMT operating procedures are not feasible or practical. The Montana Board of Medical Examiners recognizes that an organized "treat and release protocol" would not only be advantageous but necessary to maintain control and order to providing medical assistance in the community.

ALL RESPONDERS: Physical Assessment:

When conducting your initial assessment a patient, maintain a safe distance (6 feet) and utilize personal protection until you determine if influenza like symptoms exist. If no symptoms exist, then proceed with your patient assessment as normal. If influenza symptoms are present; utilize the triage tool identified below to assess and determine the severity of the illness and assist in transport decisions. The local medical director must determine, in consultation with the local public health department and health care facilities, what scores would facilitate transport or treat and release; this could change depending on the evolving characteristics of the viral infection and may change daily or even hourly depending on available medical resources.

Demographics: Score

Age <6 months:	2
6 mo – 5 yrs	1
5 yrs- 65 yrs	0
65 yrs- 75 yrs	1
>75 yrs	5
Caregiver at home	-1

O2 saturation: Score

> or = to 90%	0
86% - 89%	3
76% - 85%	4
= to or < 75%	5

Respiratory rate: Score

8 - 24 resp / min	0
24 - 60	2
< 8 or > 60	3

Heart rate: Score

< 6 mo & > 150 HR	2
Children > 6 mo & > 120 HR	2
Adults: > 110 HR	2

Blood pressure: Score

<6 mo & cap refill > 2 seconds	2
90 - 100mmHg	2
< 90mmHg	4

Temperature: Score

>103 F (39.4 C)	1
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Mental Status: Score

Confused	2
Unresponsive/ Obtunded	3

Able to tolerate PO? Score

Yes	-1
No	1

Co morbidities: Score

DM, asthma/COPD, CHF	1 each
Obesity	1
Pregnancy	2

Evaluator discretion: Score

Evaluator may assign subjective -1, 0, or +1

Patients who score:

- > 14 Patient should remain home with comfort measures provided
- 8 - 14 Should be transported to the emergency department for treatment
- 4 - 8 Should be directed for additional screening/assessment but does not require ambulance transport
- < 4 Should not be transported and should remain home with provided instructions