

Swine Flu Response Plan

1. Is your employer providing training to all workers who may come into contact with patients with swine flu about how to recognize and differentiate between seasonal and swine flu and how to prevent potential exposures to both kinds?
2. Is your employer:
 - a. Providing respirator training?
 - b. Providing workers with a selection of N95 and more protective respirators from which to choose?
 - c. Fit-testing these respirators so that they achieve a good respirator face seal for all workers with potential exposure to swine flu, and other airborne biological threats?
3. Is your employer encouraging visitors and staff with cold or flu-like symptoms to stay at home? If so, will staff be paid for lost worktime if they stay at home or are sent home from work?
4. Respiratory etiquette is a CDC-encouraged practice of placing surgical masks on all patients exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms. Has your employer implemented such a policy and is it being followed?
5. Is your healthcare facility taking steps to educate the public how to prevent transmission of swine flu, such as distributing educational materials and posting information on its Web site?
6. Does your employer have a written plan for you to review that covers how it will retain and increase staffing to deal with a surge in patients as a result of a swine flu outbreak or pandemic?
7. If and when a vaccine becomes available for the swine flu, how will workers be covered if they become sick or injured by this new vaccine?