

# Duty Screening

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## RESPIRATORY ILLNESS IN A PANDEMIC: PANDEMIC INFLUENZA DUTY SCREENING

During an actual or potential outbreak of a novel or pandemic influenza within the United States of America, the State of New Mexico, or the four corners region, this protocol may be activated by the service director and medical director to ensure the health of the EMS and public safety personnel.

Note: As a new infectious disease unfolds, there will likely be changes to assessment protocols, PPE recommendations, and treatment guidelines. The protocol is intended to be an initial guide.

An influenza-like illness (ILI) has a non-specific symptomatology. It may include, fever, cough, rhinorrhea, dyspnea, myalgias, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or other vague symptoms.

### Upon arrival to work:

- If applicable, change from street clothes to duty uniform.
- Complete a medical screening assessment. This assessment should be performed by an EMT-Intermediate or Paramedic.
- Document the assessment in a log.

### Uniforms:

- The duty uniform can act as a carrier for the influenza virus. If possible, to reduce exposure to yourself and your family, refrain from wearing your duty clothing home. If you must take it home, washing it with any detergent will suffice to clean it.

### Medical Screening:

- Influenza is well-known for a 24 hour phase of latent infection. It is then followed by the very abrupt onset of symptoms. For that reason, it is imperative that EMS and Public Safety personnel are screened before and during long shifts.
- Assess the EMS and Public Safety personnel for the following:
  1. Cough
  2. Shortness of breath
  3. Severe headache
  4. Myalgias
  5. Malaise
  6. Fevers and/or chills
  7. Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Obtain objective measurements of:
  1. Temperature
  2. Pulse Oximetry (room air)
  3. Heart Rate

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## IF FEBRILE (T>38.0) AND HYPOXIC (Sat <90% RA)

- Droplet precautions
- Transport to medical facility
- No work until afebrile and asymptomatic for 24 hours.

## IF FEBRILE (T>38.0) AND NOT HYPOXIC, AND HAS SYMPTOMS

- Droplet precautions
- Wear a surgical mask at all times.
- Reassess in 24 hours.
- Go Home.
- No work until afebrile and asymptomatic for 24 hours.

## IF FEBRILE WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

- Wear a surgical mask at all times.
- Reassess in 24 hours.
- Go Home.
- No work until afebrile and asymptomatic for 24 hours.

## IF AFEBRILE WITH SYMPTOMS

- Wear a surgical mask at all times.
- Reassess in 24 hours.
- Go Home.
- Recheck temperature every 8 hours.
- No work until afebrile and asymptomatic for 24 hours.

## IF AFEBRILE WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

- OK for duty.
- Perform a medical screening every 12 hours when on shift.