

**Draft 9/14//09****Protocol for Antiviral medication for likely case of 2009 H1N1 influenza in a first responder**

This antiviral medication is being provided to the employee of a first responder agency, by prescription from their Medical Director, Dr. {blank}. This medication is provided under rules established by this federally subsidized, Minnesota state program in an effort to maintain vital first responder response capacity. This medication is for use by sick employees only. By the rules of this program, this medication cannot be used by their family members or other persons. Family members would have to get these medications through other medical sources. This medication is not for use to prevent the employee getting the virus – the employee must indicate they are sick now.

There are laws that protect an employee's privacy from questions asked by their employer. In order to safely prescribe this medication, Dr. {blank} needs to have certain basic information collected. You are acting as a proxy for Dr. {blank}. You cannot discuss anything about this patient with anyone other than Dr. {blank} or another medical provider involved in this patient's care. There are severe penalties for breaching a patient's right to privacy. This information is directly related to the employee's illness. It is needed to allow safe and timely treatment. This information is limited to only questions required to provide safe assessment and treatment. The employer may not use this information for any other purpose. If the employee does not want to answer these limited questions, then they will need to seek antiviral treatment from their usual medical provider.

1. Have the employee read the form titled **“Antiviral medication for likely case of 2009 H1N1 influenza in a first responder – Information and patient permission sheet.”**
2. Have the employee acknowledge they are sick now by reading and later signing this form which has the following sentence: **“There is reason to believe I have influenza because I have a fever of at least 100 degrees F (or 37.8 C) and have a cough or sorethroat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.”** The employee does not need to tell you which symptoms they have.
3. Make sure the employee has read and understands the sentence in bold **“If you have severe symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, rapid breathing, cyanosis (lips or skin looks blue or ashen), significant dehydration, or you were getting better but now have a high fever again, you should seek care at a medical facility now.”** Patients with these symptoms need direct medical evaluation now. Such patients may need hospitalization or other treatments to prevent threat to life.
4. Have the employee answer only the questions that apply to the antiviral they are choosing. For instance they do not need to answer questions about illnesses under Relenza if they are opting for Tamiflu. Nor do they have to indicate what specific illness they have.
5. If they are opting to take an antiviral, and have answered the questions that apply to that antiviral, have them sign the form.
6. Label a prescription signed by Dr. Mahoney with the employee's name.
7. Give the employee a copy of the **“Patient information sheet for Antiviral medication for likely case of 2009 H1N1 influenza in a first responder”**
8. Have the employee take the prescription to the place your agency is using for distribution of antiviral medications from your agency's cache. This will vary from one agency to the next.
9. If your agency has personnel authorized to distribute antivirals on site, the actual pack of

antivirals must be labeled with the employee's name.

10. Store this completed form in a secure location and return to Dr. {**blank**}.