



**DBHDD**

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**SEASONAL FLU AND H1N1 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
DBHDD REGIONAL HOSPITALS**

(answers provided by Dr. Pat O'Neal, Director,  
Georgia Department of Community Health,  
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**Q.** What suggestions or plans are available to guide the State Hospital Facilities in responding to an actual epidemic? For example, what pattern of isolation of cases should we follow?

**A.** Each hospital should develop a plan for cohorting patients presumed to be infected with H1N1.

**Q.** What suggestions are available as to the amount of face masks (N-95 Respirators and regular), gloves, gowns and other supplies should be purchased?

**A.** For planning purposes consider the attack rate to be 35% of the population in the hospital and calculate enough PPE to care for that number of patients. Check CDC web site <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines\\_infection\\_control.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm) for specific recommendations on infection control strategies and the use of surgical masks vs N95s. Because of limited availability of N-95s, those recommendations may have to be modified.

**Q.** What plans are being made regarding availability of antiviral drugs? We would have access to the National Stock Pile in case of a true epidemic. However, are there State resources?

**A.** Pandemic has already been declared. But the severity level is essentially the same as that of seasonal flu. We are using stockpile antivirals only for patients severely ill and hospitalized medically. All acute care hospitals have supplies of antivirals currently. Unless severity of illness changes, we will not be making antivirals available for outpatient treatment or for prophylaxis.

**Q.** What provisions have been made for the purchase of H1N1 identification kits?

**A.** No H1N1 identification kits are currently available. The state lab does H1N1 tests for epidemiologic surveillance only--not for clinical diagnostic purposes. The only lab that does clinical diagnostic testing currently in GA is Quest. The charge is approx. \$300/test. Since the management of the case is essentially the same whether one has seasonal flu or H1N1 flu, the need for clinical diagnostic tests is questionable.