

HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAM

Signs and Symptoms of Influenza

• Rapid onset of symptoms	• Difficulty breathing with exertion
• Doctor has already diagnosed influenza	• Cough
• Fever	• Shaking chills
• Pleuritic chest pain	• Sore throat (no difficulty breathing or swallowing)
• Nasal congestion	• Runny nose
• Muscle aches	• Headache

KEY POINTS

- All EMS personnel engaged in aerosol generating activities (e.g. endotracheal intubation, bag-mask ventilation, nebulizer treatment, or CPAP [use expiratory filter]) should wear the PPE as described in this treatment protocol.
- When transporting a patient with symptoms of acute febrile respiratory illness, notify the receiving healthcare facility so that appropriate infection control precautions may be taken prior to patient arrival.
- Any nonessential equipment that can be removed from the patient compartment of the ambulance before transport will hasten the time needed to disinfect and return to service.
- After the patient has been removed and prior to cleaning, the air within the vehicle may be exhausted by opening the doors and windows of the vehicle while the ventilation system is running. This should be done outdoors and away from pedestrian traffic.
- Routine cleaning methods should be employed throughout the vehicle and on non-disposable equipment. Routine cleaning with soap or detergent and water to remove soil and organic matter, followed by the proper use of disinfectants, are the basic components of effective environmental management of influenza. Reducing the number of influenza virus particles on a surface through these steps can reduce the chance of hand transfer of virus particles. Influenza viruses are susceptible to inactivation by a number of chemical disinfectants readily available from consumer and commercial sources.

Influenza/Respiratory Illness (continued)**3.23**

TREATMENT	DRUGS/PROCEDURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat using General Patient Care Protocol (3.01). • Use appropriate standard infectious precautions. • Appropriate PPE for suspected cases of influenza includes disposable N-95 mask, eye protection, and disposable non-sterile gloves. Disposable non-sterile gown is optional depending on the situation (follow guidance of service medical director). • If dispatch advises the EMSP of the potential for acute febrile respiratory illness symptoms on scene, do PPE for suspected cases of influenza prior to entering scene. • If the EMSP encounters individuals with symptoms of acute febrile respiratory illness prior to donning PPE, stay more than six (6) feet away from individuals with symptoms and exercise appropriate routine respiratory droplet precautions. If patient has signs or symptoms of influenza or acute febrile respiratory illness, do the PPE described above before coming into close contact with them. • All patients with acute febrile respiratory illness should wear a surgical mask, if tolerated by the patient. • Encourage good patient compartment vehicle airflow/ventilation (turn on exhaust fan) to reduce the concentration of aerosol accumulation when possible. 	<p><u>EMT:</u></p>
	<p><u>Advanced:</u></p>
	<p><u>Intermediate:</u></p>
	<p><u>Paramedic:</u></p>