**Influenza Infection Control FAQs**

**Q1: How to healthcare workers catch influenza**

A: Most commonly from touching surfaces covered with virus, and then touching their face

Secondly from inhaling aerosolised droplets from infected patients at times when sputum aerosolisation is high. Ie suctioning, ventilation, intubation, bronchoscopy. In short all those things done on ICU.

**Q2: What should I do if a suspected / proven Influenza patient is admitted**

A: This should preferably be to a sideroom or ‘cohorted area’.

The nurse looking after the patient should:

- Ensure that full PPE is available
- Ensure that yellow HMEF filters are on the expiratory limb of the ventilator, or the exhaust valve of the CPAP circuit.
- If not in a sideroom, nurses either side should wear surgical masks.

**Q3: What is full PPE?**

A: Re-usable or disposable FFP3 mask

Water repellent gown with arms

Eye protection

Non-latex gloves

**Q4: What should I do and when?**

A: Whilst at the bedsape: Wear the FFP3 mask at all times when within 1m of the patient, as well as a standard gown and gloves

Wear full PPE when administering to the patient: mouth care, giving IV drugs, suctioning etc

PPE should be removed as per standard IC policy to a designated bin at the bedsape

Before and after every intervention, decontaminate or wash hands in a designated sink

**Q5: Where can I find all this kit?**

A: **RSCH**: FFP3 masks above chest drain bottles in clean utility, eye protection goggles are on the trolleys that have the dressings, syringes etc, fluid repellent gowns are in the ITU large store (as is everything else).

**PRH**: Contact Clare Hebditch  
**HPNC**: Contact Simon Neale
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry to cohorted area but no contact with patients</th>
<th>Close patient contact within one metre</th>
<th>Aerosol generating procedure – see section 5.9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hand hygiene – before &amp; after contact</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gloves</strong></td>
<td>No – gloves to worn for certain cleaning procedures (housekeeping)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plastic apron</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fluid repellent gown</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No – unless risk assessment identifies likelihood of splashes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surgical mask</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FFP3 reusable respirator – See section 5.10</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eye protection - Box 50 order code BTP012 (Shermond)</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No – unless risk assessment identifies likelihood of splashes to face</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>