

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. I.e 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 bedspace: 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 bedspace

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).

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Table 1: Personal protective equipment for staff who care for patients with pandemic influenza

	Entry to cohorted area but no contact with patients	Close patient contact within one metre	Aerosol generating procedure – see section 5.9
Hand hygiene – before & after contact	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gloves	No – gloves to worn for certain cleaning procedures (housekeeping)	Yes	Yes
Plastic apron	No	Yes	NO – Wear fluid repellent gown
Fluid repellent gown	No	No – unless risk assessment identifies likelihood of splashes	Yes
Surgical mask	Yes	No	No – wear FFP3 reusable respirator
FFP3 reusable respirator – See section 5.10	No	Yes	Yes
Eye protection - Box 50 order code BTP012 (Shermond)	No	No – unless risk assessment identifies likelihood of splashes to face	Yes