Section: UTMB On-Line Documentation 3.27 - Policy

Subject: Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures

Topic: Protocol for Screening Persons for an Emerging Infectious Disease

(EID) at Portals of Entry for UTMB Hospitals, Emergency Department and the University Hospital Clinics (UHC)

11.19.09 2009 – Author

3.27 Protocol for Screening Persons for an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) at Portals of Entry for UTMB Hospitals, Emergency Department and the University Hospital Clinics (UHC)

Purpose

To reduce the risk of visitors entering UTMB Hospitals, Emergency Department and the UHC with an influenza-like illness (ILI) infecting patients and healthcare workers. Further, to provide patients entering the hospital who have an ILI, with surgical masks to prevent transmission of swine influenza to others as they make their way to the floor where they will be hospitalized or to a clinic where they have an appointment.

Audience

Hospital Administration, Nursing Administration, Emergency Department, Chairs of Clinical Departments and the Committee on Strategic Planning and Operations for the 2009 H1N1 Influenza

Policy Statements

I. Screening for influenza-like illness (ILI) at the portals of entry into UTMB hospital, Emergency Department and clinics

Employees and students will be self screened upon entering the hospital or clinics and are asked to follow the Institutional Influenza policies but are also empowered to question any fellow employee or student about signs and symptoms of influenza and encourage them to go home if they are ill.

- II. Screening for influenza at the portals of entry into the UTMB Hospital and Emergency Department
 - A. Children who are age 12 or under will not be permitted to enter the hospital unless they are patients.
 - B. All patients or visitors seeking entry into the hospital will be screened for an ILI.
 - C. Personnel who screen at portals of entry will wear a face shield or goggles and a surgical mask. (See Policy 3.28 on respiratory protection)
 - D. Patients and visitors will be asked if they have \geq 3 of the following symptoms:
 - 1. Do you have a fever or feel like you have a fever?
 - 2. Do you have a cough?
 - 3. Do you have a sore throat?
 - 4. Do you have a runny nose?
 - 5. Do you have a stuffy nose?

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- E. If a patient has ≥3 of the above symptoms, the patient will be given a mask and asked to apply an alcohol hand rub and allowed to proceed to the clinic or inpatient unit. All pregnant patients, regardless of symptoms, will be asked to apply an alcohol hand rub and don a surgical mask until they are in their designated room.
- F. If a visitor does not exhibit any of the above symptoms, they will be given a color-coded wrist band and permitted to enter the hospital.
- G. If the visitor has ≥3 of the above symptoms, the screener will ask the purpose of the visit. If the visit is absolutely necessary, e.g., visiting a dying patient, a mask will be given to the visitor and he/she will be asked to use an alcohol hand rub prior to proceeding to the unit. A wrist band will be given to the visitor indicating that he/she is to wear the mask for the duration of the visit. The charge nurse on the unit where the person who screens positive for an ILI will visit must be called. If the visit is not necessary, the visitor will be asked to leave until he/she is asymptomatic.
- III. Screening for influenza at the portals of entry at the University Hospital Clinics
 - A. All patients or visitors seeking entry into the UHC clinic will be screened for an ILI.
 - B. Personnel who screen at portals of entry will wear a face shield or a surgical mask and goggles. (See Policy 3.28 for respiratory protection)
 - C. Patients and visitors will be asked if they have ≥ 3 of the following symptoms:
 - 1. Do you have a fever or feel like you have fever?
 - 2. Do you have a cough?
 - 3. Do you have a sore throat?
 - 4. Do you have a runny nose?
 - 5. Do you have a stuffy nose?
 - D. If a patient has ≥ 3 of the above symptoms, the patient will be given a mask and asked to apply alcohol hand rub and allowed to proceed to the clinic. All pregnant patients, regardless of symptoms, will be asked to apply an alcohol hand rub and don a surgical mask until they are in their designated room in the clinic.
- IV. Children of Employees

Children of employees may not enter the hospital unless they are here for a clinic appointment.