



DT: 2.13.17
TO: ALL JOCO EMS SYSTEM PROVIDERS
RE: INFLUENZA ACTIVITY HIGH IN COMMUNITY

Please be aware that Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is continuing to show very high activity in KS. Patients and providers can be contagious PRIOR to onset of fever, as well as several days AFTER fever, however peak transmissibility occurs DURING a fever.

In order to minimize the spread of these respiratory infections please consider placing a simple surgical mask on the patient. This helps control the source of infection and protects all providers on the scene. As a provider, you should consider wearing a surgical mask when coming in close contact (ex. within 6 feet for patient care) or when transporting a patient in the back of the ambulance with prolonged contact. Using a mask and good hand hygiene is imperative to help prevent further spread of ILI and other respiratory illnesses.

Any patient who has a fever, nasal congestion, sore throat, headache, cough, or body aches should be considered infectious (year-round), but especially during an epidemic of Influenza.

Please be safe and take appropriate precautions!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ryan C. Jacobsen", written in a cursive style.

Ryan C. Jacobsen MD, EMT-P, FAEMS, FACEP
JOCO EMS System Medical Director