August 28, 2009

TO: UCSF PHYSICIANS AND NURSES

FROM: Adrienne Green, M.D.
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RE: H1N1 PATIENTS AND CODE BLUE

The Infection Control and Code Blue committees had previously determined that "all code personnel should wear N-95 masks in code blue situations" because of the "endemic H1N1 Influenza and potential for aerosol generating procedures during a code." This practice has been revised in response to your feedback.

Please note the following changes:

• Disposable fit-tested N95 respirators, eye protection (goggles or face shield) and gloves should be worn by Code Blue personnel only when resuscitating a patient with known or suspected H1N1 or with droplet precautions for other reasons.

For patients with known or suspected H1N1, N-95 masks should be available outside patient rooms.

• For all other patients, Code Blue personnel involved with airway management, chest compressions, or vascular access procedures should practice standard precautions, which includes gloves, surgical mask and eye protection.

Masks and safety glasses are available in the code cart.

If you have questions regarding the use of masks during Code Blue, please contact Amy Nichols, director of Infection Control, at amy.nichols@ucsfmedctr.org.