

	FALMOUTH VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES <i>SAFETY BULLETIN</i>	
	SUBJECT: SWINE FLU	NUMBER: SB09-003
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The Department of Homeland Security has issued a public health emergency concerning a ***possible*** swine flu pandemic.

Expect to see more patients with complaints of the flu. Most of these patients ***will not*** have swine flu.

Symptoms include:

Headache, fever, muscle aches, cough, respiratory congestion, nausea, vomiting, and possibly diarrhea.

These are common complaints and only specialized tests can confirm swine flu.

The flu is spread through contact with droplets from the infected patient. These droplets can be airborne or from surface contact.

To reduce the chances of catching the flu please follow the common protection practices:

Wear gloves.

Wash your hands frequently, and use a hand sanitizer.

Place a mask on patients who are coughing.

Open the ambulance windows to create a negative pressure.

Disinfect all surfaces of the ambulance immediately after transporting patient.

Clean stethoscopes, BP cuffs, monitor cables, cell phones, door handles, pagers, and anything else that is touched frequently.

Don't eat, drink or place anything in your mouth while in the ambulance.

We are awaiting recommendations from VDH on the use of N95 masks, gowns and eye protection.

If you are ill do not come to work and possibly make your co-workers or patients ill

As with any exposure notify the Safety Officer of Falmouth or the County.