

GRANT COUNTY

County Courthouse
P.O. Box 37
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-6060



HEALTH DISTRICT

1038 W. Ivy Avenue
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 766-7960

Suggestions to reduce respiratory illness in a dormitory facility **(reviewed 4.30.09)**

1. Isolate ill students as rapidly as possible. Do not mix them in with well students.
 - This may mean that one room is dedicated to ill students.
 - Verify that the air flow system does not circulate back into the well population. It would be better if the room ventilated to the outside.
 - Consider closing gathering rooms such as recreational rooms.
 - Consider restricting off-campus travel for students with respiratory infections. Especially, if they are enrolled in another school where large numbers of people could potentially be exposed.
2. If students are responsible for cleaning their dormitories, verify that cleaning protocols are strictly adhered to by students.
 - If not already in place, increase cleaning to commonly touched dorm room items such as bed rails.
3. Teach students proper respiratory etiquette.
 - Make sure that Kleenex is readily available throughout the facility.
4. Encourage students to report to the clinic upon the first sign of illness.
5. Encourage the use of vaccines.
6. Encourage the use of masks to reduce additional illness.

Contact your local public health department with any disease questions. Grant County Health District – 509-766-7960.

Supplement D: Community Containment Measures, Including Non-Hospital Isolation and Quarantine

V. Community-Based Control Measures

January 8, 2004 www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/guidance/D/community.htm

Whereas decisions on use of containment measures in individual situations depend primarily on the characteristics of the exposure and the affected contact, the decision to institute broader use of community measures is more complex. The different options - e.g., active monitoring with voluntary activity restrictions, legally mandated quarantine, institution of snow days - will vary in their effectiveness in controlling the outbreak. Other measures that might prevent inadvertent exposures should also be considered. Decisions should be based primarily on the epidemiologic characteristics of the outbreak. Other considerations will include the healthcare and public health resources available and the level of community cooperation.

Jurisdictions should consider *more restrictive measures* for any of the following situations: (1) Increasing number of cases among contacts of patients; (2) Significant interval between the onset of symptoms and the isolation of cases, (3) Inadequate resources for continued isolation of cases and tracing and monitoring of contacts. In some cases, affected persons may not have access to an appropriate home environment for quarantine. Examples include travelers; persons living in **dormitories**, homeless shelters, or other group facilities. In these situations, health officials should identify a *facility with the appropriate characteristics for quarantine of contacts*. Other community-level measures, such as community-wide temperature monitoring, temperature screening before entering public buildings, or recommended or mandatory **mask use**, may also be considered.

The process by which community containment measures are lifted requires as much thought and planning as their implementation. When applied to individuals, movement restrictions such as quarantine can be removed as soon as the exposed contact has remained without signs or symptoms of disease for a complete incubation period. Premature removal of containment strategies can increase the risk of additional transmission and recurrent outbreaks. Decisions should be based on evidence of improving local/regional control, such as 1) consistent decrease in the number of confirmed cases, 2) reduction in the number of probable and known cases, and 3) confirmation that all cases either were imported or have a known source or well-defined epidemiologic link. When three incubation periods have elapsed since the last reported confirmed case of disease, discontinue quarantine of contacts. Also discontinue maintenance of designated facilities for quarantine.