



**Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County**

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<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b> 04/27/2009  TO: EMS Providers in Grant County Law Enforcement Agencies in Grant County	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b>  Theresa Fuller, Public Information Officer 509-766-7960 x24 Carol Schimke, RN 509-766-7960 x22
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**SWINE FLU ADVISORY #3 – Masks**

Grant County Health District is advising all EMS and law enforcement agencies to inventory their supply of N95 and surgical masks. Very rough approximation of masks quantity estimates for current stage of your preparedness are provided below. For reference, the amount of N95 masks needed could equal a number of all employees in a patient-care capacity per day times four weeks (28 days); the amount of surgical masks needed could equal approximately 3x monthly facility patient load.

- N95 masks should be used by all staff providing patient care to individuals with flu-like symptoms.
- Surgical masks should be used on all patients with flu-like symptoms or those sharing areas with patients who have flu-like symptoms if N95 is not available.
- A distance of 6 feet is recommended to separate patients with and without influenza-like illness.

For consistency with various national and international estimates, this document defines close contact as a distance of up to 6 feet. (Referenced: Interim Recommendations for Facemask and Respirator Use in Certain Community Settings Where Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Transmission Has Been Detected)

**CDC states flu-like symptoms are defined as:**

- **Fever (usually  $\geq 100^{\circ}$  F)**
- **Cough**
- **Sore throat**
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Headache
- Tiredness (can be extreme)
- Body aches
- Diarrhea and vomiting (more common among children than adults)

**Advise All Staff to:**

- Wash hands frequently, particularly before or after touching the nose or mouth
- Stay home while ill with respiratory symptoms and fever
- Cover coughs and sneezes

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