



IAFF Comment on H1N1 Interim Guidance Note

Attention Canadian Affiliates:

On July 29, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released three interim guidance notes to address infection control of the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Flu Virus. One of these guidance notes is titled *Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Prehospital Care* and references fire fighters and other first responders. A link to this guidance note is provided below for your information.

The IAFF Department of Occupational Health and Safety has reviewed the PHAC document and you should be aware of some important differences between it and the existing IAFF Response to the H1N1 flu virus as it pertains to interaction with individuals with H1N1. Specifically, while PHAC recommends the use of an N95 respirator mask in order to achieve infection prevention for workers in a prehospital setting, the IAFF recommends the use of a P100 respirator at minimum, with an elastomeric seal for which you have been fit tested and trained to wear.

And unlike the PHAC guideline, the IAFF recommends that a worker having direct patient interaction with an individual who has influenza, a forceful cough and who is not compliant with respiratory hygiene **MUST** wear respiratory protection.

A link to the IAFF Response to the H1N1 Flu Virus is also provided below for your information.

If you have any questions or concerns about health and safety issues related to the H1N1 virus, please do not hesitate to contact the IAFF Canadian Office.

Public Health Agency of Canada – Interim Guidance Note on Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Prehospital Care:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/swine-porcine/hp-ps/pc-sp-eng.php>

IAFF Response to H1N1 (Swine) Flu Outbreak:

<http://www.iaff.org/09news/swineflu.htm>

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