

First Responders

H1N1 Flu Virus by Doug Brown

We still need volunteer First Responders for all areas and Volunteer Dispatchers. Full training is provided. Please contact either of the two responders below for more information.

The following is written by Dr. Oz regarding the preventative steps to take to help prevent the proliferation of the H1N1 Virus. These steps are actually good hygiene at all times of the year and can help prevent colds as well.

The only portals of entry are the nostrils and mouth/throat. In a global epidemic of this nature, it's almost impossible to avoid coming into contact with H1N1 in spite of all precautions. Contact with H1N1 is not so much of a problem as proliferation is.

While you are still healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, in order to prevent proliferation, aggravation of symptoms and development of secondary infections, some very simple steps, not fully highlighted in most official communications, can be practiced (instead of focusing on how to stock N95 or Tamiflu):

- 1. Frequent hand-washing (well highlighted in all official communications).*
- 2. "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of face (unless you want to eat or bathe.)*
- 3. *Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine or Hydrogen Peroxide if you don't trust salt). *H1N1 takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/ nasal cavity to proliferate and show characteristic symptoms. Simple gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual that Tamiflu has on an infected one. Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventative method.*
- 4. Similar to 3 above, *clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water, or hydrogen peroxide. *Not everybody may be good at Jala Neti or Sutra Neti (very good Yoga asanas to clean nasal cavities), but *blowing the nose softly once a day and swabbing both nostrils with cotton buds dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population.**
- 5. *Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (Amla and other citrus fruits). *If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc to boost absorption.*

6. **Drink as much of warm liquids (tea, coffee, etc) as you can. *Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.*

Please, if you can volunteer as a first responder or dispatcher call one of the numbers below for an explanation of what is required. For more information call Sherri at 250.675.2420 or Doug at 250.675.3920