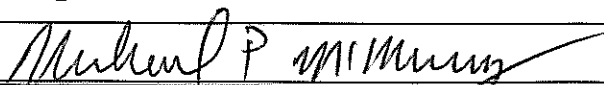


**SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**



<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES DATE APPROVED: APPROVED:</b>	<b>ARTICLE: II</b>	<b>SOP: 2908</b>
	<b>SECTION: 2900 Emergency Medical Service</b>	
	<b>SUBJECT: Influenza Antiviral Drug Program</b>	
	<b>August 6, 2009</b>	
		

**Purpose:**

To assure proper storage and distribution and use of the pandemic influenza drugs oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza) by employees of the Scotts Valley Fire District. The intent is to reduce the severity of an influenza illness by making appropriate drug therapies available, thus being able to sustain services during an influenza outbreak/pandemic.

**Scope:**

This procedure shall be referred to by all employees in the event a pandemic flu outbreak has been declared by the Santa Cruz County Health Office.

**Introduction:**

Use of antiviral drugs is a key strategy in containing and responding to an influenza pandemic. Antiviral drugs have demonstrated effectiveness against infections caused by influenza A viruses in decreasing severity of clinical illness and the complications of illness such as lower respiratory tract infections (pneumonia) when used for treatment of ill persons within 24-48 hours of symptom onset. Antiviral drugs are also effective in preventing clinical illness with influenza A viruses when used for prophylaxis before or soon after exposure.

Employees and their immediate families may access the District's stockpile as prescribed herein.

During a serious outbreak of pandemic, it is likely that there will be significant increases in demand for emergency services, thus it is crucial to assure all possible protections for emergency responders.

**Definitions:**

**Influenza**

A highly contagious infection caused by an Influenza virus. It is characterized by high fever

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**STANDARD  
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cough and other respiratory symptoms such as runny or congested nose, muscle aches and pains and feelings of tiredness and listlessness. Severe symptoms typically last for 7-14 days and are followed by a longer period of coughing. Some patients have vomiting or other gastrointestinal symptoms together with the above. Vomiting and diarrhea without fever are sometimes called stomach flu, but these illnesses and the common cold are much milder and not caused by the Influenza virus.

**Influenza Viruses**

Influenza viruses belong to one of two types A or B. Influenza A viruses are the ones most likely to cause outbreaks. Influenza viruses are identified by the place name of the area where they are first detected and the nature of 2 of their components, Hemagglutinin (H), and Neuraminidase (N).

**Seasonal Influenza**

Yearly occurrence of epidemics or outbreaks of influenza affecting people in a certain region within the late Fall, Winter and early Spring months. Sporadic cases may occur at other times of the year. Seasonal influenza affects relatively small proportions of the population, usually the very young and those who have not built up immunity over previous years when similar virus strains were circulating.

**Pandemic Influenza**

Worldwide spread of Influenza causing intense outbreaks affecting a large proportion of the population. Pandemics occur when new influenza strains invade the human population. Thus the entire population is susceptible. Pandemics occur when there is a major change in the influenza strain circulating in the human population. This major change is called antigenic shift and resulted in world wide pandemics in 1918 Spanish (H1N1); 1957, Asian (H2N2); and 1968 Hong Kong (H2N2). There have been no pandemics since 1968. The H3N2 viruses have continued to show smaller changes (antigenic drift) but a large proportion of the population has some degree of immunity to these viruses.

**Storage of Medication**

The Scotts Valley Fire District has purchased a quantity of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza) for all employees and their immediate families. These treatment medications are required to be stored on a cool dry place, and are locked in a secure location.

# SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES</b>	<b>ARTICLE: II</b>	<b>SOP: 2908</b>
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	<b>SUBJECT: Influenza Antiviral Drug Program</b>	

## Inventory and Shelf Life

Tamiflu – 128 bottles - expiration date: 3/2015

Relenza – 32 boxes – expiration date: 7/2012

## Distribution Procedures

When an employee or a member of the employee's immediate family suspect they have the H1N1 flu, the affected person should seek immediate medical attention. If the treating physician believes or has reason to believe the person is infected with the H1N1 virus, the affected person should receive a prescription for Tamiflu. If the physician does not offer it, patients should request it. If the affected person is unable to fill the prescription through their regular pharmacy due to product shortages, they may bring the prescription to the on-duty Scotts Valley Fire District Battalion Chief.

If the prescription is for Tamiflu or Relenza, the Battalion Chief will issue the patient the prescribed medication from SVFD inventory, and record the issuance in the prescription log located with the medications.

## Dosage and Administration

All medications shall be taken in a manner consistent with the manufactures instructions, and/or physicians orders.

A normal dosage of Tamiflu would be 1 capsule twice per day for 5 days, once in the morning and once in the evening. You should complete the entire treatment of 10 doses (capsules), even if you feel better.

Relenza is for administration to the respiratory tract by oral inhalation only, using the DISKHALER device provided.

The recommended dose of Relenza for treatment of influenza in adults and pediatric patients ages 7 years of age and older is 2 inhalations (one 5-mg blister per inhalation for a total dose of 10mg) twice daily (approximately 12 hours apart) for 5 days. Two doses should be taken on the first day of treatment whenever possible provided there is at least 2 hours between doses. On subsequent days, doses should be about 12 hours apart (e.g., morning and evening) at approximately the same time each day. There is no data on the effectiveness of treatment with Relenza when initiated more than 2 days after the onset of signs or symptoms.