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| SWINE FLU EPIDEMIC | | | | NO. | |
| DEFINITION: Swine flu is an acute and highly contagious respiratory disease caused by the orthomyxovirus.  CAUSES: This virus is spread when either you inhale infected droplets in the air or when you come in direct contact with an infected person’s secretions. You can also transfer the flu virus to your hands by touching smooth surfaces such as doorknobs, handles, television remotes, computer keyboards, and telephones. Then when you touch your hand to your eyes, nose, or mouth, the flu virus gets absorbed. This strain is readily passed human to human.  SIGNS/SYMPTOMS: The following is a list of symptoms:   1. Coughing 2. Sneezing 3. Headaches 4. Body aches 5. Fever 6. Chills 7. Sometimes vomiting and diarrhea     About one to four days usually elapse between the time a person is infected and the onset of symptoms. Swine flu causes the same symptoms and may be difficult to distinguish from other strains of flu and respiratory illnesses. Severe cases of flu that lead to death are normally seen in very young and very old people whose immune systems are too weak to fight off the virus. Adults with severe illness may also have difficulty breathing, dizziness, confusion, or severe vomiting and diarrhea.  TREATMENT/PREVENTION: Current treatment includes:   1. Tamiflu 2. Relenza   The drugs should be administered within the first 48 hours of the onset of symptoms.  Should Winning Wheels incur an epidemic of Swine Flu the following measures will be initiated:   1. Staff in housekeeping, activities, nursing, and the Director of Nursing will help make beds, so long as it does not interfere with their regular work. 2. An aide will be assigned by the charge nurse to take temperatures 3. Residents with an elevated temperature should remain in their room for at least 5 days from onset of symptoms and be placed on droplet precautions for that length of time. 4. Explain to residents why their diets are being altered 5. Allow residents not feeling well to stay in bed 6. Kitchen should be notified in writing by the charge nurse of diet changes 7. Staff running a temperature of 100F or higher should stay home from work or be sent home from facility 8. Good hand washing between residents 9. Telephones should be disinfected daily during the epidemic | | | | | |
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