Appendix A. INITIAL TRIAGE for Pandemic Influenza

**Purpose:** Initial triage is intended to help patients who are concerned about influenza determine whether or not they should seek medical help.

**ASK these initial questions**
1. **Within the past 10 days,** has the patient been exposed to someone with influenza?
2. Did the patient get sick fairly quickly, over 1-2 days?
3. Does the patient have a fever over 101°F or 38°C?
4. Does the patient have a sore throat?
5. Does the patient have a cough?
6. Does the patient have severe muscle aches?

**Patient is NOT likely to have influenza and should contact his/her usual source of medical care.**

**Patient IS likely to have influenza.**

**CONTINUE with the following questions**
1. Is the patient struggling to breathe or breathing very rapidly?
2. Is the breathing very shallow, slow, or weak? (respiratory suppression)
3. Are the lips, tongue, or face blue? (cyanosis)
4. Has it been more than 12 hours since the patient last urinated? (dehydration)
5. Is the patient too weak to walk to the bathroom or not moving around in bed AND/OR is the skin pale and cool to the touch? (shock)

**Patient should be evaluated by a private physician, urgent care facility, or hospital triage area.**

**Advise patient to be evaluated if any of the above occurs in the near future.**

**Reassure patient that the illness is not severe and can be treated at home.**

**Provide information about self-care. Options include verbal instructions, website, print media.**

**If available, offer Tamiflu if within 48 hours of illness onset.**