

Franklin County General Infection Control Practices:

General

Due to the nature of Franklin County operations, the County takes Infection Control and the spread of germs and disease seriously. In response to the recent Swine Flu alerts, we would like to share these proactive practices with you.

Stay Home - When you become ill and are not sure if what's ailing you is infectious, stay home. Do not wait to call the doctor, until you are too sick to function, telephone your doctor's office for direction when necessary. Keep a three (3) day supply of food and water on hand, so you can get plenty of rest and care for yourself or your family without leaving home.

Hand Washing is the number one preventive measure available for reducing the spread of germs and infectious disease. Washing your hands following contact with others or touching frequently used surfaces is a good practice to follow. When hand washing is not possible. Hand sanitizer is the next best thing.

Hand Sanitizer is considered an effective infection control tool when hand washing is not available. Hand sanitizer is used regularly by the County workforce. Wall mounted units were installed in the Court House Annex for public use on a trial basis. Due to the positive response to these units, arrangements are currently underway to have the dispensers installed in the Court House, Administration Annex, and Human Service Building lobbies, as well.

Tissues used to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing acts as a barrier reducing the germs that get into the air. It's important to remember when using a tissue to properly dispose of it, after the first use. Also, don't be afraid to offer someone a tissue when they might need one. It may help minimize the spread of germs. If you don't have a tissue available, when there's a need to cough or sneeze, use your sleeve.

Coming Soon—"Why Don't We Do It In Our Sleeves" video, which provides a five (5) minute presentation (in a humorous way) on the importance of good infection control techniques—such as coughing and sneezing in a tissue or sleeve, regular hand-washing, and disposing of tissues immediately following use. Although these sound like simple practices, they go along way in minimizing the spread of germs. The video will be available on the Franklin County Web-site within the next six (6) to eight (8) weeks.

Franklin County Web Page - Internet/Intranet Swine Flu Information Site

You can access information and resource links by visiting the County's landing page at www.co.franklin.pa.us and clicking on the Swine Flu Information icon below the Franklin Ready (on the right side of the screen).

Personal Infection Control Kit (Typically kept in a purse or desk drawer.)

Alcohol Prep Pads/Disinfectant Wipes

Adhesive Strips (Band-aids)

Topical Ointment

Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer

Disposable Gloves

Tissues

Automobile Infection Control Kit (Typically kept in the automobile.)

Disposable Gloves

Trash Bags

Paper Towels

Topical Ointment

Adhesive Strips (Band-aids)

Alcohol Prep Pads/Disinfectant Wipes

Leak Proof Absorbent Pad (24" x 24")

Tissues

Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer

Summary – To minimize the spread of infection or disease, Infection Control practices at work, school and home should be Franklin County's norm instead of something we do when virus or disease becomes a threat. Please join us in spreading the word, not infectious disease.

Thank you!