



Scarborough Fire Department

B. Michael Thurlow, Fire Chief

GENERAL ORDER

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

ORDER #: 15-007

DATE ISSUED: 10/31/2014

SUBJECT: INFLUENZA TYPE ILLNESS POLICY

DATE RECINDED:

PER ORDER OF: *B. Michael Thurlow*, Fire Chief

During seasonal influenza season and whenever the dispatcher believes a request for assistance involves a potential infectious disease it is important to limit exposure to all unnecessary personnel and to protect our facilities. The following guidelines shall be followed by all personnel:

- Dispatchers should avoid sending an engine to assist the rescue on calls for influenza like illnesses (ILI) unless there is a report of severe difficulty breathing or other urgent reason for the additional manpower
- First responders, including firefighters or police officers, should avoid contact with patients reporting or presenting with ILI symptoms and leave that patient contact and assessment to the rescue crews.
- If a patient with ILI presents at the station attempt to keep them outside or in their vehicle so as not to unnecessarily contaminate the fire station until they can be properly assessed.
- Follow Scarborough Fire Department SOPs and MeEMS protocols on PPE use and proper decontamination procedures.