

Home Health Scenarios for Knox/East Healthcare Coalition Full Scale Exercise: Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreak

This sheet is for the controller, with expected actions that should be taken. The following sheets have the same scenarios, but are formatted for you to share with your players day of exercise for them to assess appropriate actions.

(Patients 1-8 all have same expected actions, listed after patient 8).

1. Mrs. Ellen Excitability is an 80 year old female. Family reports she has been showing signs of neurological changes over the past 48 hour. She complains of a headache and scores pain as an 8 out of 10. When checking her vitals, temp is 100. As you continue your assessment, you notice she has a dry cough and her eyes are red and tearing.
 2. The Flu Family:
 - a. Mr. Freddie Flu is a 72 year male who is coughing while you are trying to do your therapy visit. His arms feel hot to touch as you walk him. As you get him seated you check his vitals and his temperature is 103. What instructions do you give and what precautions do you take. What are your next steps?
 - b. Mrs. Fannie Flu is the wife of the patient. Mr. Flu states his wife has been sick for 3 days, not eating, feeling lifeless, and complaining of a BAD headache and blurred vision. She has shown signs of confusion. He is concerned as she is not herself. Their daughter lives in Nashville.
 3. Mrs. Connie Cough is a 65 year old female that you are visiting for wound care. Today when you visit, she does not want you to do any treatment. Patients states she is not feeling well, has had a fever, no appetite, and a cough with thick yellow secretions. She has been in the bed the past 72 hours and doesn't want to be bothered. She lives alone.
 4. Mr. Victor Violent is an 88 year old male who has had a total knee replacement. You are there for therapy. Mr. Victor is typically jovial and compliant, but today he is easily agitated, confused, and angry when asked his assessment questions. When asked to do his rehab, he is verbally abusive in his responses. He will not allow you do his vitals, but you notice he has a cough, his eyes are red, and he mentions his head is hurting. He didn't sleep at all last night.
 5. Mrs. Susie Seizures is your 52 year old patient. She states she hasn't felt well and has a temp of 102. She's become confused about her medications. While you are ambulating her to the kitchen to check her medications, she stops, begins to stare briefly; and then suddenly falls to floor displaying the signs a seizure. She lives alone.
 6. Mr. Todd Temperature is a 68 year old male you are seeing for congestive heart failure. Today Mr. Temperature is not well. He is aching, tired, coughing and complaining of a headache. He is not eating or drinking well, lunch yesterday was his last meal. You check his temperature and it is 103.
 7. You are making a visit today for Mrs. Candace Confusion, who is one of your hospice patients with kidney cancer. She is 93 and typically alert and happy to see you. Today she is confused and lethargic. Family reports she has been restless, even in her sleep, and has not eaten in the last 24 hours, which is unusual for her. She has shown no interest in sitting on the porch, which she normally looks forward to. You notice she has a dry cough, her heart rate is 33 and her temp is 103.
 8. Mr. Henry Headache is a 70 year old male you are seeing for long range planning. He complains he has a headache he can't seem to shake and has had it for a couple of days. As you walk to the kitchen table
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he is unsteady on his feet and says he's dizzy. You notice he has a cough and secretions appear yellow as he discards his tissues. He's usually sharp as a tack, but today he is having notable memory issues.

Expected actions:

These patients are exhibiting: fever, confusion, aggressive behavior, and respiratory symptoms such as cough or signs of pneumonia. These have been identified as indicators for the atypical viral encephalitis highly infectious disease in recent news releases.

- These patients should be provided facemasks, encouraged to use cough/sneeze etiquette, and immediately triaged to reduce potential spread within living area.
 - If possible, proper precautions should be adhered to with the patient being transferred to a negative pressure airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) and placed on airborne precautions until further notice.
 - If an AIIR is not available, patient should be placed in a single patient room maintaining a closed door. Priority for AIIRs should be given to those earlier in the course of their illness.
 - Medical providers are asked to immediately notify local public health with suspected cases. (Follow protocol of your agency on who is to notify PH) Number will be provided for exercise day (We will be using a simulation cell for the phone calls).
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9. Mr. Harvey Heresay is a 82 year old male who lives with his daughter. When you arrive, the daughter informs you that her father has the zombie flu that she read about on Facebook and she is extremely concerned. He has seemed sick to her and has grown agitated as she continues to check his temp (she's been taking it every 2 hours). You smell the strong scent of bleach and she informs you that she wipes down everything in his room multiple times a day, which he also shows aggression over. She's called EMS, but they are full and she wants you to take immediate action on behalf her very ill father because nobody else will help her. You take his vitals and everything seems normal. His only complaint is not getting enough sleep and the strong smell of bleach.

Expected actions:

Provider should offer clear messaging regarding the infectious disease to calm the daughter's fears. Clinical symptoms are not seen in the patient and there is no need to continue the measures that the daughter has implemented, which seem to be the cause of the agitated state in the patient. Providers should be educated on this emerging illness in order to allay any panic they may encounter and be prepared to educate the public.

10. Mr. Joe Jobseeker walks in the front door for a scheduled job interview. He is coughing as he signs in and gruff as he introduces himself. Once seated you notice he is sweating, restless, and pale. As he waits, he makes a phone call and his conversation quickly turns loud and hostile. He comments that he hasn't felt well for days during his rant. It is making others visibly uncomfortable as his temperament escalates.

Expected actions:

This patient is exhibiting: fever, confusion, aggressive behavior, and respiratory symptoms such as cough or signs of pneumonia. These have been identified as indicators for the atypical viral encephalitis highly infectious disease in recent news releases.

- The patient should be provided a facemask, and encouraged to use cough/sneeze etiquette. He should immediately be triaged to reduce potential spread within the waiting room area.
 - If possible, proper precautions should be adhered to with the patient being transferred to a negative
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- pressure airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) and placed on airborne precautions until further notice.
 - If an AIIR is not available, patient should be placed in a single patient room maintaining a closed door. Priority for AIIRs should be given to those earlier in the course of their illness.
 - Medical providers are asked to immediately notify local public health with suspected cases. (Follow protocol of your agency on who is to notify PH). Number will be provided for exercise day (We will be using a simulation cell for the phone calls).
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11. You make your visit to Fleece Flu, a little 96 year old patient. No one answers the door. You go back to the car and call her emergency contact. Her daughter, who lives about 20 minutes away, answers the phone. She said she just talked to her that morning and asks you to wait as she drives over. Once there, you both walk in and find Ms. Fleece Flu unresponsive, no heart rate, no blood pressure. She was a DNR. The daughter states her mother had been experiencing a low grade fever, and she thought she may possibly have had the flu.

Expected actions:

Agency policy should be followed for this situation. Additionally, since the daughter indicated her mother may have been symptomatic for the highly infectious disease, the regional forensic center should be notified. (Number will be provided for those who would like to report on exercise day).

12. Mr. Timmy is a 72 year old male who you have been seeing for hypoglycemia. Today he states he is not well. He is very shaky, tired, and sweaty. He's slightly irritated and has had blurred vision. He mentions that he feels like he has a fever. Vitals are taken: temp: 102.8, heart rate: 100, and blood pressure: 80/60, blood sugar: 70.

Expected actions:

Before isolating and reporting, patient should be treated for hypoglycemia, considering symptoms. After treatment, if symptoms persist, consideration should be given that he may have the highly infectious disease.

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Mrs. Ellen Excitability

Mrs. Ellen is an 80 year old female. Family reports she has been showing signs of neurological changes over the past 48 hour. She complains of a headache and scores pain as an 8 out of 10. When checking her vitals, temp is 100. As you continue your assessment, you notice she has a dry cough and her eyes are red and tearing.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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The Flu Family

- Mr. Freddie Flu is a 72 year male who is coughing while you are trying to do your therapy visit. His arms feel hot to touch as you walk him. As you get him seated you check his vitals and his temperature is 103. What instructions do you give and what precautions do you take. What are your next steps?
- Mrs. Fannie Flu is the wife of the patient. Mr. Flu states his wife has been sick for 3 days, not eating, feeling lifeless, and complaining of a BAD headache and blurred vision. She has shown signs of confusion. He is concerned as she is not herself. Their daughter lives in Nashville.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Mrs. Connie Cough

Mrs. Cough is a 65 year old female that you are visiting for wound care. Today when you visit, she does not want you to do any treatment. Patients states she is not feeling well, has had a fever, no appetite, and a cough with thick yellow secretions. She has been in the bed the past 72 hours and doesn't want to be bothered. She lives alone.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Mr. Victor Violent

Victor is an 88 year old male who has had a total knee replacement. You are there for therapy. Mr. Violent is typically jovial and compliant, but today he is easily agitated, confused, and angry when asked his assessment questions. When asked to do his rehab, he is verbally abusive in his responses. He will not allow you do his vitals, but you notice he has a cough, his eyes are red, and he mentions his head is hurting. He didn't sleep at all last night.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Joe Jobseeker

Mr. Joe walks in the front door for a scheduled job interview. He is coughing as he signs in and gruff as he introduces himself. Once seated you notice he is sweating, restless, and pale. As he waits, he makes a phone call and his conversation quickly turns loud and hostile. He comments that he hasn't felt well for days during his rant. It is making others visibly uncomfortable as his temperament escalates.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Mr. Timmy Tremor

Mr. Timmy is a 72 year old male who you have been seeing for hypoglycemia. Today he states he is not well. He is very shaky, tired, and sweaty. He's slightly irritated and has had blurred vision. He mentions that he feels like he has a fever. Vitals are taken: temp: 102.8, heart rate: 100, and blood pressure: 80/60, BS: 70.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Susie Seizures

Mrs. Susie is your 52 year old patient. She states she hasn't felt well and has a temp of 102. She's become confused about her medications. While you are ambulating her to the kitchen to check her medications, she stops, begins to stare briefly; and then suddenly falls to floor displaying the signs a seizure. She lives alone.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Harvey Heresay

Mr Harvey is an 82 year old male who lives with his daughter. When you arrive, the daughter informs you that her father has the zombie flu that she read about on Facebook and she is extremely concerned, almost panicked. She is wearing gloves and a face mask. She states he has seemed sick, and has grown agitated as she continues to check his temp (she's been taking it every 2 hours). You smell the strong scent of bleach and she informs you that she wipes down everything in his room multiple times a day, which he also shows aggression over. She's called EMS, but they are extremely busy and won't provide transport to take him the emergency room. She wants you to take immediate action on behalf her very ill father because nobody else will help her. You take his vitals and everything seems normal. His only complaints are not getting enough sleep and the strong smell of bleach continuously in his room.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Mr. Todd Temperature

Mr. Todd is a 68 year old male you are seeing for congestive heart failure. Today Mr. Temperature is not well. He is aching, tired, coughing and complaining of headache. He is not eating or drinking well, lunch yesterday was his last meal. You check his temperature and it is 103.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Mrs. Fleece Flu

You go to make your visit to Fleece Flu, a little 96 year old patient. No one answers the door. You go back to the car and call her emergency contact. Her daughter, who lives about 20 minutes away, answers the phone. She said she just talked to her that morning and asks you to wait as she drives over. Once there, you both walk in and find Ms. Fleece Flu unresponsive, no heart rate, no blood pressure. She was a DNR.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Mrs. Candace Confusion:

You are making a visit today for Mrs. Candace Confusion, who is one of your hospice patients with kidney cancer. She is 93 and typically alert and happy to see you. Today she is confused and lethargic. Family reports she has been restless, even in her sleep, and has not eaten in the last 24 hours, which is unusual for her. She has shown no interest in sitting on the porch, which she normally looks forward to. You notice she has a dry cough, her heart rate is 33 and her temp is 103.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	

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Mr. Henry Headache

Mr. Henry Headache is a 70 year old male you are seeing for long range planning. He complains he has a headache he can't seem to shake and has had it for a couple of days. As you walk to the kitchen table he is unsteady on his feet and says he's dizzy. You notice he has a cough and secretions appear yellow as he discards his tissues. He's usually sharp as a tack, but today he is having notable memory issues.

What precautions do you take?	
What instructions do you give?	
What additional steps do you take?	