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<th>Link in Chain of Infection</th>
<th>Influenza Implications</th>
<th>Notes for pharmacy staff</th>
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| Infectious agent           | Present in environment during flu season | □ Be aware of current strains and case reporting requirements  
                            |                         | □ Watch the CDC website https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm |
| Reservoir                  | Potentially everyone, some higher risk | □ Promote annual vaccination in everyone age 6 months or older |
| Portal of exit             | Droplets               | Tell patients to...  
                            |                         | □ Limit contact with people who appear to be sick  
                            |                         | □ Isolate themselves if they have the flu and stay home for at least 24 hours or until the fever resolves  
                            |                         | □ Wash sheets, pillow cases and blankets weekly and hot water and separate each household members personal items (e.g. toothbrushes, razors)  
                            |                         | □ Remind all household members to use disposable tissues, cover their mouths when sneezing or blowing their noses, and wash their hands immediately afterward.  
                            |                         | □ Ensure infected family members have trash cans nearby to dispose of tissues and wipes; educate each household member to avoid placing soiled tissues on the ground or nearby surfaces  
                            |                         | □ Remind people to keep their hands away from the face and mouth. |
| Transmission               | Organism can remain active on environmental surfaces | □ Remind patients to disinfect objects and surfaces such as telephones, computer keyboards, light switches, door knobs, remotes, and children’s toys  
                            |                         | □ The Environmental Protection Agency only allows manufacturers to use words like “sanitize” or “disinfect” on products that have proven ability to kill germs; look for these products.  
                            |                         | ▪ The most commonly used products are Pine Sol, Clorox, and Lysol  
                            |                         | ▪ Lemon juice, lavender, and tea tree oil or natural products that have disinfectant properties  
                            |                         | ▪ A mixture of 1/4 cup chlorine bleach to 1 gallon hot water will also disinfect  
<pre><code>                        |                         | □ Consider using washing machine or the dishwasher to clean communal items; many items can be washed in these appliances, and using hot settings and soap can disinfect |
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| Portal of entry            | Nose/mouth            | □ Advise frequent handwashing *(BEST PREVENTIVE METHOD)* with soap and water, especially before eating and after using the bathroom.  
□ If soap is unavailable, alcohol-based hand rubs with at least 60% alcohol are recommended  
□ Evidence that facemasks prevent influenza transmission is lacking but CDC recommends facemasks when  
  • Healthcare personnel enter a room belonging to a patient with suspected or confirmed influenza  
  • Patients with suspected influenza leave their rooms, must leave home, or enter a healthcare facility |
| Vulnerable hosts           | Everyone; some people at greater risk | Promote annual influenza immunization, especially among high-risk groups  
  • Children younger than five, especially those younger than 2  
  • Adults 65 years of age and older  
  • Pregnant women and women up to 2 weeks postpartum  
  • Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities  
  • Native Americans and Alaska Natives |

Sources: 10, 12-14