



San Benito County Emergency Medical Services Agency

STANDING ORDER FOR GOVERNMENT-ISSUED TAMIFLU® STOCKPILE PROGRAM

Policy : 10000
Effective : May 1, 2010
Reviewed : May 1, 2010

I. Introduction to the Tamiflu® Stockpile Program

Antiviral medications such as TAMIFLU® (Oseltamivir Phosphate) are one of several approaches to protect people during an influenza pandemic. Antiviral medications should not be the primary defense strategy against pandemic influenza, since their ultimate effectiveness in treating pandemic illness cannot be predicted in advance of identifying the specific pandemic virus.

Vaccination against the pandemic virus is likely to provide the most reliable and durable protection against pandemic illness, but the optimal vaccine can only be developed once the pandemic begins; therefore no vaccine or only limited quantities of vaccine may be available during the first pandemic wave in the U.S. Attacks of influenza typically occur in waves lasting from 6 to 8 weeks, separated by months. An effective vaccination against the influenza pandemic virus strain may take up to 5 months to develop. Researchers advise that TAMIFLU® is not a substitute for the influenza vaccine but rather, a supplement to it.

It should be noted that antiviral medications alone do not assure continuity of normal operations. Other key response measures to an influenza pandemic event include Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) to reduce the transmission of disease by decreasing social interaction and limiting contact between sick and well individuals. Until the development of a vaccine occurs and is made widely available, the conscientious use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as surgical face masks, N95 Respirators and eye protection, in conjunction with an antiviral medication defense strategy, is expected to provide essential personnel the best known means of protection against an influenza pandemic virus.

The local TAMIFLU® stockpiles are to be used **ONLY** by order of the Local Public Health Officer or her/his Designee and then **ONLY** during a declared WHO Phase 6 influenza pandemic.

II. Purpose of the Tamiflu® Stockpile Program

To provide San Benito County's essential personnel and their families, an antiviral defense strategy against contracting influenza and for shortening the duration and lessening the severity of actual flu illness during an influenza pandemic event.

III. Objectives of the Tamiflu® Stockpile Program

The objectives of the TAMIFLU® Stockpile Program are four-fold:

- Protecting those who are essential to the pandemic response and provide care for persons who are ill;
- Protecting those who maintain essential community services;
- Protecting essential workers who are at greater risk of infection due to their job; and
- Protecting children.

IV. Product Information: TAMIFLU® (Oseltamivir) (Roche)

- A. TAMIFLU is a drug with the generic name of Oseltamivir. It is a drug belonging to the family of antivirals. Anti-virus drugs such as TAMIFLU® are used to treat diseases that are caused by viruses thus, the name antiviral. TAMIFLU® is administered orally (p.o.).
- B. TAMIFLU® is **indicated** for the treatment of uncomplicated influenza caused by viruses types A and B in patients one year and older who have had flu symptoms for no more than two days. TAMIFLU® is also indicated for the prevention of influenza in patients one year and older. TAMIFLU is not a substitute for annual early vaccination as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- C. TAMIFLU® is **contraindicated** in patients with known hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product.
- D. The recommended oral dose of TAMIFLU® for treatment of influenza in adults and adolescents 13 years and older is 75 mg twice daily for 5 days. Treatment should begin within 2 days of onset of symptoms of influenza.
- E. The treatment dosing recommendations of TAMIFLU® for children 1 – 12 years of age is determined by the child's weight. Child doses are less than those recommended for adults. The San Benito County TAMIFLU® Stockpile only contains adult doses of 75 mg capsules. Therefore, **Liquid TAMIFLU for children** must be created using the adult capsules. The procedure of creating Liquid TAMIFLU® is called "Compounding." Once Compounded, the Liquid TAMIFLU will be in a concentration of 25 mg per each 5 mL (1-teaspoon). Refer to the accompanying document titled "*Creating Liquid TAMIFLU® for Children Older Than 1 Year of Age During a Pandemic Flu Event*" for complete Compounding instructions. This accompanying document can be found on-line at:
<http://www.sanbenitoco.org/EMS/EP/PANFLU/compoundingtamiflu.pdf>

- F. For persons who cannot swallow a pill, refer to the Compounding instructions contained in Sub-Section E above.
- G. No antiviral drugs are approved for use in children less than one (1) year of age.**
- H. The effects of TAMIFLU® can only be fully felt when TAMIFLU® is continuously taken at a regular interval. If possible, it should be ensured that no dose of Tamiflu is missed. However, if it is unavoidable that a dose of TAMIFLU® is missed, you should take the dose you missed as soon as you remember provided that it is not near the time for the next dose. Never take the missed dose of TAMIFLU® two hours (or earlier) before the next dose of TAMIFLU®. Do not take double doses of TAMIFLU®.
- I. There are no data about the symptoms of TAMIFLU® overdose but if you suspect TAMIFLU® overdose and notice unusual symptoms, immediately discontinue taking TAMIFLU® and seek emergency medical attention.
- J. Taking TAMIFLU® may lead to some unwanted side effects. The side effects of TAMIFLU® may range from mild to severe. These are the side effects associated with TAMIFLU®:
- Cough
 - Phlegm production
 - Wheezing
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Stomach cramps
 - Stomach upsets
 - Nosebleed (frequently and most commonly occurring in children)
 - Itching of eyes
 - Redness of eyes
 - Skin flushing
 - Swelling of eyes and excessive production of tears
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Insomnia
 - Dizziness
- Other side effects of TAMIFLU® may also occur aside from the ones mentioned above. If you experience any of these side effects and if they become intolerable and bothersome, immediately discontinue use of TAMIFLU® and ask your personal doctor on what to do next.
- K. TAMIFLU® capsules should be stored at room temperature below 77°F (25°C) and kept in a dry place. As with all medications, keep out of the reach of children.

V. Procedure

- A. The TAMIFLU® stockpile is **ONLY** to be opened or used at the direct order of the Local Public Health Officer or her/his Designee and **ONLY** then in the event of a declared WHO Phase 6 influenza pandemic.
- B. Upon the order of the Local Public Health Officer or her/his Designee, each essential personnel are to receive five “Courses” of TAMIFLU® 75 mg capsules for themselves and their family. One Course contains ten capsules and serves one person. One capsule is to be taken orally twice each day, 12 hours apart, for five consecutive days completing the “Course” of medication.
- C. For children 1 – 12 years of age and for those who cannot swallow a pill, refer to Section IV. E of this document and the accompanying document *“Creating Liquid TAMIFLU® for Children Older Than 1 Year of Age During a Pandemic Flu Event”* that provides instructions for creating Liquid TAMIFLU®. See at:
<http://www.sanbenitoco.org/EMS/EP/PANFLU/compoundingtamiflu.pdf>
- D. **As with all medication, if there are questions about the safety or appropriateness of the self-administration of TAMIFLU® during a pandemic event, seek the immediate advise of your personal physician or other Healthcare Professional.**
- E. Annually, the San Benito County Division of Public Health will inventory the individual TAMIFLU® stockpiles.

VI. California Authority

- A. [California Health & Safety Code § 101000](#) - Authorizes the county Health Officer position.
- B. [California Health & Safety Code § 101025](#) - The Board of Supervisors of each county derives authority to preserve and protect the public health in the unincorporated areas of each county by ordinance, regulations, and orders not in conflict with general law.
- C. [California Health & Safety Code § 101040](#) - Authorizes Local Health Officers to take any preventive measure that may be necessary to protect and preserve the public health from any public health hazard.
- D. [California Health & Safety Code § 120175](#) – If the disease is not yet present in the Health Officer’s jurisdiction, the Health Officer may take preventative steps to control spread of disease into the jurisdiction.
- E. [California Penal Code § 409.5](#) – If the calamity creates an immediate menace to the public health, the Local Public Health Officer may close the area where the menace exists pursuant to the conditions set forth in this section.

- F. *Patrick v. Riley*, (1930) 209 Cal.350, 354 - The preservation of the public health is universally conceded to be one of the duties devolving upon the state as a sovereignty and whatever reasonably tends to preserve the public health is a subject upon which the legislature, within its police power, may take action.

VII. Professional References

- California Department of Public Health *“Antiviral Medication Stockpile Guidance for Local Agencies and Businesses – March 21, 2008”*

-by direct link

<http://www.sanbenitoco.org/ems/EP/PANFLU/cdphantiviralguidance.pdf>

- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security – *“Guidance on Allocating and Targeting Pandemic Influenza Vaccine – July 23, 2008”*

-by direct link

<http://www.sanbenitoco.org/ems/EP/PANFLU/allocationguidance.pdf>

- California Department of Health Services *“Authority & Responsibility of Local Health Officers in Emergencies & Disasters – September 30, 1998”*

-by direct link

<http://www.sanbenitoco.org/ems/EP/PANFLU/hlthofficrauthorities.pdf>

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