Assessment and treatment in the community during an influenza outbreak

**General danger signs for infants less than 2 months**
1. Not able to feed since birth, or stopped feeding well
2. Convulsed or fitted since birth
3. Fast breathing: Two counts of 60 breaths or more in one minute
4. Chest indrawing
5. High temperature: 37.5 °C or more
6. Very low temperature: 35.4 °C or less
7. Infant only moves when stimulated
8. Yellow palms and soles
9. Signs of local infection: umbilicus red or draining pus, skin boils, or eyes draining pus

**General danger signs for sick children (2 months up to 5 years old)**
1. Cough for 21 days or more
2. Diarrhoea for 14 days or more
3. Blood in stool
4. Fever for 7 days or more
5. Convulsions
6. Not able to drink or feed
7. Vomits everything
8. Chest indrawing
9. Unusually sleepy or unconscious
10. Red on MUAC strap
11. Swelling of both feet

**General danger signs for adults and children (5 years and older)**
1. Shortness of breath/difficulty in breathing
2. Lips or skin turning blue
3. Chest pain
4. Coughing up blood or coloured sputum
5. Low blood pressure
6. Confusion/disorientation
7. Convulsions
8. Loss of consciousness
9. Signs of severe dehydration
10. Persistent high fever beyond 3 days

**IF NO DANGER SIGN PRESENT DOES THE PATIENT HAVE?**

- **COUGH OR DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING**
- **FEVER**
  - Body temperature above 37.5 °C from armpit or 38 °C rectal, hot to touch, history of fever in the last 48 hours
- **DIARRHOEA**
  - 3 or more loose stools in 24 hours

**Count the breaths in one minute**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Fast breathing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 up to 2 months</td>
<td>60 breaths/min or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 up to 12 months</td>
<td>50 breaths/min or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months up to 5 years</td>
<td>40 breaths/min or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 12 years</td>
<td>30 breaths/min or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years or more</td>
<td>20 breaths/min or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**If fast breathing**
Give antibiotic for pneumonia according to national protocol

**Malaria-endemic region**
Test and treat for malaria according to national protocol

**Non malaria-endemic region**
Treat for fever

**Give ORS and extra fluid**
(zinc for children less than 5 years of age)

**If any danger signs, refer**
Before referral, if able to eat and drink, give a first dose of antibiotics and antimalarial medication, continue to give ORS, breastfeed frequently and keep infant warm

**Follow-up care**
- Explain to the patient and family that they must take the medication as prescribed
- Follow up the patient to evaluate any improvement, worsening symptoms, or danger signs
- Provide key messages 1 to 10 to the sick person and family

*If pandemic influenza is circulating in the community, and the patient has fast/difficult breathing and/or persistent high fever and other symptoms beyond three days, community case management of pneumonia should be provided. Ensure close observation of previously healthy patients, and – where capacity exists – refer high risk groups to a higher level of care. CHWs should immediately refer a sick child or adult to a health facility if she/he has any of the danger signs.*

© WHO, 2011
Fever: treatment with paracetamol
Using syrup 120 mg/5 ml for children less than 12 months, give 4 times a day (10–15 mg/kg):
- Age 2 up to 4 months (4 up to 6 kg): 50 mg (2 ml)
- Age 4 up to 12 months (6 up to 10 kg): 60 mg (2.5 ml)
Using 500 mg tablets, give 4 times a day:
- Age 1 up to 3 years: ¼ tablet
- Age 3 up to 5 years: ½ tablet
- Age 5 to 14 years: 1 tablet
- Age 15 years or more: 1 to 2 tablets

Malaria: treatment with artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT)
- To be completed according to national ACT protocol

Pneumonia: treatment with oral amoxicillin
The treatment regimen should be adapted to the local patterns of drug resistance and disease, and the national protocol.
Using oral amoxicillin 250 mg tablets, give 2 times a day, for 5 days:
- Age less than 2 months: ¼ tablet (total 2½ tablets)
- Age 2 up to 12 months: ¾ tablet (total 7½ tablets)
- Age 12 months to 14 years: 1½ tablet (total 15 tablets)
- Age 15 years and over: 2 tablets (total 20 tablets)

Diarrhoea: zinc supplement for children (from 2 months to 5 years)
Give 1 dose daily for 10 days:
- Age 2 up to 6 months: ½ tablet (total 5 tablets)
- Age 6 months to 5 years: 1 tablet (total 10 tablets)