



Social Media Training Exercise

Coughmonic Scenario

On October 7, Adams County hosted a large sporting event with approximately 20,000 people in attendance. In preparation for the sporting event, the complex held two mandatory training days for all 150 event staff on October 4 and 5. Event staff were being trained to perform customer service tasks such as ticket handling, food preparation or service, direct sales of tickets, or leading people to their seats. Small groups of trainees would work closely with a trainer to learn each task, and the trainees mingled freely sharing smokes and drinks with one another during breaks.

On the afternoon of the first day of the pre-event training (October 4), one member of the event staff, John Smith, suddenly became ill with fever, headache, cough and chills. John told his co-workers that the week prior to the mandatory training (September 21-28), he spent time at his grandparent's farm helping his grandpa clean out an old barn with a history of rodent infestation. His grandpa told him the squirrels at the farm had been dying recently. John had a cat on the farm, who lived mainly outside. The cat had recently seemed sick, but John had allowed him inside and onto the couch with him. John really needed the job so he continued with the training though he felt quite ill.

By the second day of the pre-event training (October 4), John's symptoms had worsened. He became nauseated and was coughing frequently. His supervisor took him to the hospital where he was diagnosed with pneumonia. Tests for viruses came back negative and it was unclear what infectious agent was causing the pneumonia. With the exception of the supervisor who drove the employee to the hospital, none of the other event staff paid much attention to their sick co-worker, and everyone else completed the two day training.

On the day of the sporting event (October 7), 6 of the 150 event staff called in sick (including the supervisor who had taken John to the hospital) but the remaining staff showed up for work. People began pouring into the stadium, interacting with the staff. Some of the event staff who were working weren't feeling well and were coughing. A few of them even had to leave work as they felt too ill to continue.

After the sporting event, local area hospitals and clinics noticed a significant increase in patients presenting with fever, chills, and exhaustion. Some of these patients also had respiratory and pneumonic symptoms. Influenza testing was negative in these patients, and hospitals struggled to identify the agent causing the illness. Since the disease had a respiratory component and appeared to be transmissible person-to-person, hospitals began to enforce their applicable infection control protocols related to controlling the spread of the disease including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and appropriate patient isolation.



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Frequently Asked Questions – Coughmonic

1. Symptoms of Coughmonic?

Symptoms occur one to three days after exposure and are similar to pneumonia. You would notice shortness of breath, chest pain and coughing. You would get headaches and a fever. You could cough up bloody or watery mucus.

2. How many people are ill with Coughmonic?

There are 5 confirmed cases of Coughmonic.

3. If there a vaccine for Coughmonic?

There is no vaccine for Coughmonic but it is curable through antibiotics. Those infected should take all doses of medicine prescribed to ensure cure and limit side effects.

4. How to prevent the spread of Coughmonic? How to stay healthy?

Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands. If soap and water isn't available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid getting close to sick people. Keep your surroundings clean.

