**TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH STAFF**

**PNEUMONIA AND BRONCHITIS**

Authorized health and wellness staff may treat pneumonia and bronchitis as follows:

1. Evaluate the student’s ability to breathe without pain or respiratory distress. Stridor, retractions, use of accessory muscles, gasping, blue color, and other signs of acute distress suggest that immediate attention is needed. Call 911. Administer oxygen by facemask if available.
2. For fever, offer the student acetaminophen 650-1000 mg every 4 hours [MDD 4 g] **or** ibuprofen 400-600 mg [MDD 2400 mg] every 6 hours as needed. Encourage oral hydration.
3. For cough, offer the student cough syrup in a dose containing 30 mg of dextromethorphan [MDD 120 mg], for use primarily at bedtime, but no more often than every 6 hours. Again, encourage oral hydration.
4. While most often viral in etiology in the Job Corps age group (and thus not usually requiring antibiotics), bronchitis and pneumonia can be caused by *Mycoplasma* and other bacteria. Appropriate antibiotic choices include doxycycline 100 mg po bid for 7 days **or** azithromycin 500 mg po on day 1, followed by 250 mg po once daily for 4 more days.

**WHEN TO REFER TO THE CENTER PHYSICIAN**

* If the student is short of breath or has a fever >101°F
* If cough is unresponsive to dextromethorphan
* If the student has a history of asthma
* If pertussis is suspected, such as paroxysmal cough associated with vomiting