



# PANDEMIC INFLUENZA U • P • D • A • T • E



CDC Prepares

**SPECIAL ISSUE**

December 2006

## Fast Facts

### CDC Speakers Bureau

- 250 requests for speakers on pandemic influenza preparedness
- More than 50% of these requests were filled
- 70 CDC staff have volunteered for the speaker's bureau

### CDC Public Affairs

- 14 issues of the *Pandemic Influenza Update* released since November 2005
- 2 special issues of the *Pandemic Influenza Update* released since August 2006

### CDC Connects

- 2 articles published on seasonal and pandemic influenza for CDC Connects' Fall Flu Series:
  - *"Training and Teaching Globally"* (9/20/2006)
  - *"Cox Named Federal Employee of the Year"* (9/28/2006)

### CDC Media

- 5 press releases have publicized CDC activities in seasonal and pandemic influenza research

## If You Are Asked . . .

### *How Can I Prepare My Family for an Influenza Pandemic?*

The following is an abbreviated checklist to help you gather the information and resources you may need in case of a flu pandemic. The full checklist is available on [pandemicflu.gov](http://pandemicflu.gov) which includes the *Pandemic Flu Planning Checklist for Individuals and Families*.

### To Plan for a Pandemic

- Store a two-week supply of water and food. During a pandemic, if you cannot get to a store, or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important to have extra on hand.
- Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home.
- Have nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand (i.e., pain relievers, cough and cold medicine and vitamins)
- Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick, or what will be needed to care for them in your home.

- Volunteer with local groups to prepare and assist with emergency response.
- Get involved in your community as it works to prepare for an influenza pandemic.

### Limit the spread of germs

- Teach children to wash hands frequently with soap and water, and model the correct behavior.
- Teach children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, and be sure to model that behavior.
- Teach children to stay away from others as much as possible if they are sick. Stay home from work and school if sick.

## PanFlu FYI

### Get Informed!

As you begin your individual or family planning, review your state's planning efforts and those of your local public health and emergency preparedness official. Many of the *state plans* are available at [pandemicflu.gov](http://pandemicflu.gov).

<http://intranet.cdc.gov/od/panflu>

## CDC Prepares . . .

As part of CDC’s ongoing effort to properly prepare staff for a possible influenza pandemic, the agency has developed several programs designed to inform and educate staff.

### **November All-Hands Meeting Addresses CDC’s Pandemic Influenza Response**

Leaders from across the agency who are responsible for coordinating the pandemic influenza response spoke regarding the measures CDC is taking to protect the health and safety of employees in the event of an outbreak of influenza. The meeting included an overview regarding the agency’s internal influenza pandemic efforts and expectations as presented by Dr. Julie Gerberding.

Dr. Stephen Redd, Influenza Coordination Unit lead, laid out the structure of the CDC’s operational plan. He discussed the 1,600 tasks in the operational plan along with challenges facing the CDC.

Director of the Office of Health and Safety, Dr. Casey Chosewood talked at length about the Workforce Protection Plan. The plan includes ways to manage illness in the workplace with specific guidelines for supervisors and managers. Chosewood mentioned OHS’s development of workforce screening and pharmaceutical intervention techniques to support the need to safeguard the workforce. He also took a moment to give the status of the seasonal flu vaccine clinics scheduled for all of the CDC campuses.

Jonathan Trapp from the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness detailed the Influenza Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

## PanFlu FYI

### **Social Disruption**

Plan for the possibility that usual services may be disrupted. These could include services provided by hospitals and other health care facilities, banks, stores, restaurants, government offices, and post offices.

Unlike a traditional COOP event, the response is to the loss of a facility. During a pandemic we are planning for the temporary or permanent loss of personnel, according to Trapp. To that end, the planning for a pandemic more closely resembles what is traditionally referred to as ‘business continuity planning’ rather than what the government refers to as ‘COOP planning’. Business continuity is generally more long term focused whereas COOP planning is focused more on the immediate recovery following a disaster, added Trapp. CDC’s essential functions all support

Public Health Emergency Response and thus support the execution of the Influenza Pandemic OPLAN. In the event of a pandemic, or actually any public health event, the functions of the centers and divisions that support the public health response become ‘essential’ for

the duration of the event. As such, during a pandemic, the functions identified in the OPLAN will become part of CDC’s essential functions, according to Trapp.

The Integrated Emergency Management Plan (IEMP) has procedures in place to manage all internal emergencies, and the impacts of an influenza pandemic are no exception. The IEMP, which is available on the OSEP intranet site, is the

*“In the event of a pandemic, or any public health event, the functions of the centers and divisions that support the public health response become ‘essential’ for the duration of the event.”*

*Jonathan Trapp, OSEP*

all-hazards based internal emergency management plan that integrates CDC’s facility ERPs, the COOP, the OEP and the Information Technology Disaster Recovery Plans. To read more information about any of these subjects or to view the power point presentation, visit the [Pandemic Influenza Intranet site](#).

**CDC Employee Guide for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness**



As CDC continues its work to ensure the public is educated, informed and prepared for a pandemic event, the agency is also making sure its employees and their families know how to prepare themselves.

All employees will receive the CDC Employee Guide for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, scheduled to be released this month, to help prepare themselves and their families during a pandemic event.

The guide, *How to Protect Yourself and Your Family*, includes topics such as basic flu symptoms to watch for, how best to involve children in pandemic preparedness, and evacuation plans for employees. It also features activities and games to help involve children.

**Pass This On . . .**

On October 17, 2006, CDC held a Senior Leader Seminar to introduce to the agency’s senior

*“Our work, to ensure people are prepared for emerging health threats, spans the globe, but begins at home, here at CDC.”*

*Dr. Julie Gerberding, CDC Director*

leaders the CDC Influenza Pandemic Operations Plan, also known as

the OPLAN. Discussion topics included

background on why the plan was written, the format and structure of the plan highlighting the pandemic threat and the role of CDC in light of this threat, and the CDC director’s intent and philosophy in preparing for this potential health crisis. Other aspects of the OPLAN that were covered include the disease intelligence collection plan, services and support plans (eg, logistics, supply, transportation, storage), and management plans.

**Employee Preparedness Checklist**

**At Home:**

- My Family and I Have a Preparedness Plan
- We Have Discussed the Possibility of a Pandemic
- My family and I have an emergency communication plan and list of emergency contacts
- My family and I have emergency supplies, food, water, and medications needed in the event of a pandemic.

**At Work:**

- I have read my agency’s pandemic preparedness plan
- I have taken part in my agency’s pandemic preparedness training
- I participated in my agency’s preparedness drills
- I understand what my responsibilities will be in the eventb of a pandemic
- I have a personal emergency kit at work

*Get ready, become more prepared, and protect yourself and your family even more. If you can’t check all of the boxes, talk to your supervisor.*

# Ethical Guidelines *for Pandemic Influenza*

## A Challenge ...

Responding to pandemic influenza will raise a number of ethical challenges for decision makers, including establishing criteria for distributing vaccines and antiviral medications equitably and implementing measures that will impact on personal freedoms, such as restricting travel, closing schools or offices, and use of quarantine.

## An Opportunity ...

As part of its planning for a possible outbreak of pandemic influenza, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with the Ethics Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to the Director, CDC to identify the ethical tenets and principles relevant to public health decision-making during planning for and responding to

pandemic influenza. The resulting document, *Ethical Guidelines in Pandemic Influenza*, will serve as a resource for CDC decision-making relating to pandemic influenza that is grounded in a clearly

articulated ethical framework. We hope that these *Ethical Guidelines* will also be useful to CDC's

state and local partners, other government agencies, non-government organizations, and other partners as they develop pandemic influenza control plans.

The ethical commitments described in the Guidelines will address the following topics:

- ☐ **Transparency and Public Engagement** – commitment to clarity and openness in decision making, sharing of information, and obtaining input from the public.
- ☐ **Sound Science** – commitment to making decisions based on the best available evidence
- ☐ **Global Community** – commitment to working with and learning from global preparedness efforts
- ☐ **Maximize Preparedness and Establish Clear Goals** – commitment to developing and clearly communicating preparedness goals in advance of a pandemic
- ☐ **Balancing Individual Liberty and Community Interests** – commitment to using the least restrictive public health measures necessary to protect the common good and minimizing negative impacts of these measures
- ☐ **Justice** – commitment to justice in allocating resources, such as vaccines and antiviral medications and in imposing restrictions

## Next Steps ...

The document, *Ethical Guidelines in Pandemic Influenza*, is due to be available by early 2007. To request a copy of this document, please send an email to [PanfluEthics@cdc.gov](mailto:PanfluEthics@cdc.gov). For further information on CDC's public health ethics activities, please contact Drue H. Barrett, Ph.D., at 404-639-4690 or at [DBarrett@cdc.gov](mailto:DBarrett@cdc.gov).

### PanFlu FYI

#### National Influenza Vaccination Week

November 27 - December 3 marked the first National Influenza Vaccination Week. CDC has launched a [Web site for NIVW](#) and is requesting that those planning events or initiatives provide information through a Web-based list accessible on the site.

<http://intranet.cdc.gov/od/panflu>