

Avian Influenza Preparedness: Community Briefing

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Overview of Influenza

What is Influenza?

- Influenza is an illness caused by a virus.
- The virus is named the Influenza virus.
- The influenza or “flu” virus causes symptoms we think of as a cold.
- There are many other viruses capable of causing cold-like symptoms.

Are There Different Types of Flu?

- There are a few types of influenza.
 - Influenza A and B are most common
- Influenza is further characterized by the structure of the virus:
 - Influenza A H1N1
 - Influenza A H3N2
 - Influenza A H5N1 – the “Avian Flu”

Routine Influenza Season

- Each year the virus circulates throughout the world
- Each year minor changes in the virus occur, triggering the next year's flu season
- In most healthy persons, the immune system protects them from severe disease
- The result is a mild cold

Routine Influenza Season

- The result, however, is far more serious for some people:
 - Elderly
 - Young children
 - Persons with serious medical illnesses
- Each year ~40,000 persons in the US die of “routine” influenza

How is the Virus Transmitted?

- Airborne spread
- Direct contact
- May persist hours in the environment

How can we prevent it ?

- General hygiene
- Stay home if ill
- Hand washing, hand washing and hand washing
- Cover your mouth when coughing
- Cough etiquette protocol for health care facilities
- Vaccine (changes every year)
- Antivirals (Amantadine, Flumantadine , Tamiflu^R ad Relenza^R)

What is a Pandemic?

- Emergence & spread of brand new influenza virus
- The new virus emerges from animals, most typically birds
- A pandemic occurs when the virus is able to be transmitted person-to-person and results in widespread outbreaks:
 - (Near) simultaneous global outbreak
 - Elevated rates illness & death

What is a Pandemic?

- An Influenza pandemic is not a short term crisis; it may last a couple of years
- An Influenza pandemic will come in waves that may follow each other or overlap

National Preparedness Activities for Avian Flu

Monitoring Current Avian Flu Activities Worldwide

- Widespread outbreak in Southeast Asia fowl farms
- Most recent countries : Indonesia (birds and pigs), China (Migratory birds), Russia (Birds)
- Culling of birds and other animals continues
- No well defined and efficient human to human transmission documented to date
- Human cases reports of limited quality

Human H5N1 Cases Reported to WHO 2004/2005*1



Country	Number of cases	Number of Deaths	Case Fatality
Indonesia	1 (+3)	1	100 %
Vietnam	90	40	44 %
Thailand	17	12	71 %
Cambodia	4	4	100 %
Total	112	57	50 %

*1 As reported by WHO on 8/05/05

U.S. Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Activities

- US Pandemic Influenza Preparedness & Response plan draft was released on August 26, 2004
- Final version release postponed. It is expected to be at the end of October 2005
- Ongoing Avian flu vaccine trials
- Antivirals (2.5 million treatments of Tamiflu[®]) added to Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
- Increased sense of urgency at senior federal levels

New Hampshire's Avian Flu Preparedness Activities

DHHS Avian Flu Planning Group

- Using all resources of DHHS
 - Support Public Health
 - Potential impact of Avian Flu beyond Public Health
- Expand DHHS' capacity, i.e.:
 - Achieve National Incident Management System (NIMS) certification for 300+ staff
- Involved DHHS partners, i.e.:
 - Office of Information Technology
 - Bureau of Emergency management (BEM)
 - Office of the Governor

General Training and Awareness Activities

- Video-conference for Local authorities
- Mailings to Local Health Officers (HO)
- Emergency planning training for HO, local authorities and law enforcement. June 29, 2005
- Several regional trainings scheduled for law enforcement, planning groups and Health Care Provider Community
- Public Health Networks organizing Community Forums to inform general public (like this one)

Mass Vaccination Planning

- Mass vaccination Clinic guidelines master plan developed
- Ongoing update of 29 regional plans (formerly known as “Smallpox plans”); moving into an All Hazards approach
- Public Health Networks playing a critical role in planning process
- Developed a master mass vaccination clinic plan
- Communities should be fully involved in the development of their local plan

Hospital and Medical Surge Capacity

- Meeting with Hospital Association and Network staff to outline Emergency Departments capacity and needs (BEM is coordinating)
- Assessments for Isolation and Diversion
- Assessments for morgue
- Inventory of Respiratory equipment needs

Diagnostic Surge Capacity

- Public Health Laboratories developing agreements for management of surge in testing
 - Re-prioritization
 - Developing agreements with regional labs
 - Developing back-up teams for technical personnel

Case Investigation and Follow-up

- Disease control section is developing back-up teams for case investigation and follow-up
 - Training curriculum developed
 - Undergoing selection of back up team members
 - Training to be scheduled for early fall
 - Protocols for case investigation and follow- up under development
- Consider community support teams

Surveillance Activities

- Permanent communication with CDC
- No federal system in place for patient follow-up under pandemic conditions
- In-house developed systems for surveillance are in place

Isolation and Quarantine

- Work group created with participation of Court system, AG office, Law enforcement and County Corrections System
- Memo for County Court clerks
- Memo for Law enforcement
- System in place for due process if I&Q needed
- Training modules for law enforcement and local planners under development
- I&Q location unresolved
- Strong community partnership required

How do we know if we are
ready ?

Flu Pandemic Drill

- First in the nation full scale pandemic preparedness exercise, jointly developed with BEM
- Scenario developed (redacted)
- Contractor hired for drill development, implementation, and evaluation

Flu Pandemic Drill Components

- General response capacity for case reporting, investigation and follow-up
- Mass Vaccination process
- Hospital Surge Capacity
- PHL surge capacity
- Communications infrastructure
- Ethical Issues in decision making
- Strategic National Stockpile program (SNS)

Key Dates

- Oct. 18: Senior Leaders Workshop for SNS
- Oct. 20: National Guard Workshop for SNS
- Nov. 3: Emergency Operations Center Table Top Exercise
- Nov. 17: SNS Drill
- Nov. 18 – 19: Avian Pan Full Scale Drill

Questions and Discussion