

Wisconsin Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Activities

1. Community Preparedness Leadership and Networking

- Convened five regional Pandemic Preparedness Symposia for Business completed in the fall 2006.
- Governor convened State level Interagency Avian Flu Coordination Team to coordinate consistent and clear messages for the general public
- Interagency Avian Influenza Task Force to coordinate animal influenza response
- Community speaker bureau
- Provided educational opportunities for hospital infection control professionals to develop their individual pandemic plans
- Governor Jim Doyle convened Wisconsin's Pandemic Readiness Summit on March 15, 2006, to discuss our state's preparations for a potential influenza pandemic
- In partnership with the Department of Military Affairs, coordinated a state-level pandemic table top exercise conducted at the State Emergency Operations Center

2. Vaccine Distribution and Use

- Mass vaccination clinic exercises for local jurisdictions including tribal jurisdictions
- Expansion of the Wisconsin Immunization Registry to facilitate the rapid processing of medical records during a mass immunization clinic
- Contract with University of Wisconsin partners to help formulate a recommendation for prioritizing groups of people who will receive the influenza vaccine in a pandemic

3. Community Disease Control and Prevention

- Development of state and local Community Disease Containment Plans with strategies to help contain the spread of influenza in local jurisdictions
 - Outlines the roles of the state and local health departments, along with community partners such as schools, human service agencies, health care providers, first responders, and media
 - Addresses activities such as: triage and screening of sick individuals, isolation and quarantine; managing cases; and contacts
 - Also addresses: school and business closings; restricting public gatherings; and restricting travel
 - Includes tools for local health departments and tribal health leaders such as: examples of isolation orders; oath for swearing in quarantine guards; and public information materials in multiple languages
- Convening an Antiviral Purchase Strategy Summit with key stakeholders January 26, 2007
- Have developed a robust surveillance program to identify human cases of avian influenza
- State Laboratory of Hygiene has been nationally recognized as a leader in influenza identification and testing for resistance to antiviral medications
- Working with Early Warning of Infectious Disease (EWIDS) cross-border group comprised of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, New York, and Ontario, to strengthen inter-state and international reporting of suspect cases and disease outbreaks.
- Will attend tri-national meeting on EWIDS and the Security and Prosperity Partnership in March
- Piloting statewide, web-based electronic disease reporting and electronic laboratory reporting system.

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4. Pandemic Preparedness Communications

- Development of www.Pandemic.Wisconsin.gov for the general public
- Pre-developed messages for pandemic trigger points such as:
 - H5N1 or other highly pathogenic virus in wild bird in North America
 - H5N1 or other highly pathogenic virus in domestic fowl in North America
 - Human case of H5N1 or other highly pathogenic virus in North America
 - First human case of H5N1 or other highly pathogenic virus in Wisconsin
 - Human to human spread of H5N1 or other highly pathogenic virus
 - Mass dispensing site information for general public
- Development of a pandemic and avian influenza communication tool kit for local and tribal health leaders:
 - Fact sheets
 - Frequently Asked Questions materials
 - Template public service announcements
 - Template press releases
 - Template Opinion/Editorial pieces
 - Message maps/talking points.
 - Preparedness promotional materials (such as book marks, table tents, magnets, and brochures)
- Developed team of public information officers trained in crisis and emergency risk communication
- Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training offered to all local health officers and tribal health leaders
- Brief local and tribal health departments through regular teleconferences to discuss pandemic preparedness, results of local and state assessments, and ways of improving our readiness.

5. Workforce Support: Psychosocial Considerations and Information Needs

- State agency Continuity of Operations and worker protection planning for a pandemic emergency
- Regional school closing exercises completed
- Developed a Supplement to the Wisconsin Pandemic Plan that highlights the psychosocial issues that will occur in a pandemic to help people cope and increase community resilience
- Development of a plan to address communities with special needs and the specific impact a pandemic would have on them
- Provided regional training to approximately 500 individuals on the psychosocial impact of mass immunization