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HEALTH AFFAIRS

Force Health Protection & Readiness

8th Annual Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference and Exposition 2006

General Session 1 Securing Our Nation: Pandemic Preparedness and Response

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Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Force Health Protection and Readiness



“Influenza pandemics are associated with high morbidity, excess mortality, and social and economic disruption. There were three such pandemics in the twentieth century: in 1918, 1957, and 1968. During 2004, the world moved closer to a further pandemic than it has been at any time since 1968.

No one can say whether the present situation will turn out to be another narrow escape or the prelude to the first pandemic of the 21st century. Should the latter event occur, we must not be caught unprepared.”



Dr LEE Jong-wook
Director-General
World Health Organization

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Lessons Learned

- Pandemics are unpredictable
- Cases increase exponentially
- Severe disease in non-traditional age groups
- Unfolds in waves
- Public health interventions do not stop pandemics
- Delaying spread can flatten the epidemiological peak

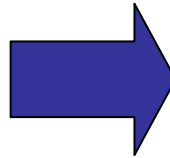




U.S. Pandemic Impact

1918:

- **25 million ill**
- **500,000 – 675,000 dead**
- **Only year in 20th century U.S. had negative population growth**



Today

- **90 million ill**
- **1.9 million dead**
- **CBO estimates 4.75% reduction in US GDP**



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Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center Assessment



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- (U) AFMIC ASSESSMENT**
- H5N1 remains a disease of birds
 - H5N1 spreads by:
 1. Legal and illegal movement of infected birds, poultry and poultry products
 2. Migratory birds
 - Spring migration of wild birds minimally impacted Europe
 - H5N1 virus endemic in Asia
 - Africa likely will not control spread of the H5N1 virus
 - Human cases occur from direct exposure to infected poultry or poultry products
 - No sustained person-to-person spread has been detected.

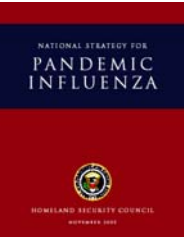
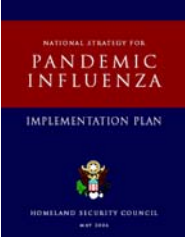
(U) Human Cases/Deaths	CENTCOM Case (Death)	EUCOM Case (Death)	NORTHCOM Case (Death)	SOUTHCOM Case (Death)	PACOM Case (Death)	TOTAL Case (Death)
As of Aug 06 Source: WHO	17 (8)	20 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	201 (122)	238 (139)



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National Planning Effort

	<h2>National Strategy</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Preparedness and Communication▪ Surveillance and Detection▪ Response and Containment
	<h2>National Implementation Plan</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Establish surveillance capability in countries at risk▪ Expand capacity for animal health monitoring activities▪ Support a coordinated response by the international community▪ Establish protocols for screening of travelers leaving affected areas▪ Coordinate public communication strategies▪ Provides Guidance on Departmental plans▪ Assigns 325 inter-agency tasks



Assumptions

- Antiviral and vaccine supplies will likely be inadequate
- Health care system could be overwhelmed
- Medical and non-medical actions will be necessary
- Community-Based interventions may:
 - Significantly reduce illness burden
 - Present economic, social, and operational challenges



- ***Francis Schmitz, National Crisis Management Coordinator, Counterterrorism Section, U.S. Department of Justice: “The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan and Challenges for Law Enforcement and Public Safety in Preparing for and Responding to a Pandemic”***
- ***David B. Mitchell, J.D., Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security, State of Delaware: “Pandemic Influenza and Bird Flu: Delaware’s State and Local Law Enforcement Preparedness Strategy”***
- ***Ron Frazier, Consultant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Director, Department of Public Safety, New Castle County (DE): “Medical Stockpiles: What, How, and Where to Access Them”***
- ***Steven M. Edwards, Ph.D., Senior Policy Advisor, Law Enforcement, Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice: “Preparing for Pandemic: Justice Resources for State and Local Communities”***