



FEMA

LESSON LEARNED

School Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Incorporating Inventory Information into Emergency Plans

SUMMARY

Higher education institutions should consider including up-to-date inventory information about personal protective equipment (PPE) and other emergency supplies in their emergency plans. The plans can detail current stockpile levels as well as provide projections of how long the stockpiles would last during an emergency.

DESCRIPTION

On October 10, 2007, the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) held a tabletop exercise (TTX) simulating the effect of a worldwide pandemic influenza outbreak on its Wilmington campus. The TTX scenario included the identification of a suspected avian influenza case on the UNCW campus. The TTX evaluated the UNCW pandemic influenza response plan and helped to prepare UNCW emergency responders. The TTX included 15 participants representing 12 UNCW departments.

UNCW offers 89 degree programs to over 12,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

TTX evaluators observed that the UNCW pandemic influenza emergency response plan did not include information on the status of PPE and stockpiles of emergency supplies. Evaluators were uncertain about the size of the university stockpile or how long those supplies would last during a pandemic influenza emergency. Further, evaluators noted that the UNCW emergency response plan did not describe a process for assigning and distributing PPE to university emergency responders. The TTX after-action report (AAR) recommended that UNCW maintain an accurate inventory of PPE and supplies as well as project how long that inventory would last in an emergency. The AAR also recommended that this information be included in the UNCW pandemic influenza response plan.

Higher education institutions should consider including up-to-date inventory information about PPE and other emergency supplies in their emergency plans. The plans can detail current stockpile levels as well as provide projections of how long the stockpiles would last during an emergency.

CITATION

University of North Carolina Wilmington Environmental Health & Safety Department. *UNCW Pandemic Flu Exercise October 10, 2007 After Action Report*. 20 Oct 2007.
<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/docdetails/details.do?contentID=32140>

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