



Local Pandemic Influenza Planning in Howard County

As required by the Code of Maryland Regulation, the Howard County Health Department is taking the lead role in planning for and responding to an influenza pandemic. The goal of the Department's local pandemic planning and response is to minimize the health, social and economic consequences of an influenza pandemic in Howard County. To achieve this goal, the Health Department is working closely with local government and non-government agencies and partners to create a pandemic response plan that will:

- Define preparedness activities that should be undertaken before a pandemic occurs that will enhance the effectiveness of response measures.
- Describe the response, coordination and decision making structure that will incorporate the Health Department, the health care system in Howard County, other local response agencies, and state and federal agencies during a pandemic.
- Define roles and responsibilities for the Health Department, local health care partners and local response agencies during all phases of a pandemic.
- Describe public health interventions in a pandemic response and the timing of such interventions.
- Serve as a guide for local health care system partners, response agencies and businesses in the development of pandemic influenza response plans.
- Provide technical support and information on which preparedness and response actions are based.

We invite you to check back at this web site often to receive periodic updates on the local pandemic influenza planning process. A copy of the plan, once finalized, will be made available through this web site.