



United States Department of  
**Health & Human Services**  
Office of the Secretary  
Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (OPHEP)

# HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan

By: **Robyn Brown, BSN, MBA**  
CDC Project Officer



**HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan**

- Adequate planning for a pandemic requires involvement of every level of our nation and world
- Ubiquitous nature of an influenza pandemic compels federal, state and local governments, communities, corporations, families and individuals to learn about, prepare for, and collaborate in efforts to slow, respond to, mitigate and recover from a potential pandemic
- Development, refinement and exercise of pandemic influenza plans by all stakeholders are critical components of preparedness

1



## HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan

- Released in November 2005
- Provides a blueprint for all HHS pandemic influenza preparedness planning and response activities
- Updates August 2004 draft HHS Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan and features important additions and refinements:
  - Integrates changes made in 2005 WHO classification of pandemic phases and expansion of integration guidance
  - Consistent with National Response Plan (NRP) published in December 2004

2



## HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan

- Consists of three parts
  - Part 1: The Strategic Plan
  - Part 2: Public Health Guidance for State and Local Partners
  - Part 3: HHS Agencies' Operational Plans (under development)

3



## HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan

- Part 1: The Strategic Plan
  - Outlines federal plans and preparation for public health and medical support in event of a pandemic
  - Identifies key roles of HHS and its agencies in a pandemic and provides planning assumptions for federal state and local governments and public health operations plans
  - Updating and refining to occur regularly
  - Serves as a tool for continued engagement with stakeholders, state and local partners

4



## HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan

- Part 2: Public Health Guidance for State and Local Partners
  - Provides detailed guidance to state and local health departments in 11 key areas
  - Updating and refining to occur regularly
  - Serves as a tool for continued engagement with stakeholders, state and local partners

5



## HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan

- Part 3: HHS Agencies' Operational Plans (currently under development)
  - Each HHS component will prepare, maintain, update and exercise an operational plan that itemizes their specific roles and responsibilities in event of a pandemic
  - Individual plans will also include detailed continuity of operations plans such as strategies for ensuring that critical everyday functions of each operating division are identified and maintained in presence of expected decreased staffing levels of a pandemic event
  - Plans will elaborate on coordination, command and control, logistics, and planning as well as financial and administration considerations

6



## HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan in context

- An influenza pandemic has capacity to cause disruptions across all levels of governments and in all communities, pandemic influenza preparedness is a shared responsibility
- HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan fits into a larger context and coordinates with other efforts
- Additional plans that will be required to mitigate the impact of a pandemic and to ensure continuity of essential services:
  - International and global planning
  - National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza (White House)
  - State and Local Pandemic Influenza Plans
  - Corporate, Infrastructure and Critical Service Provider Plans

7



OPHEP

## HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan Sets Pandemic Planning Assumptions

- Ability of the virus to spread rapidly worldwide
- People may be asymptomatic while infectious
- Simultaneous or near-simultaneous outbreaks occur in communities across the U.S., thereby limiting the ability of any jurisdiction to provide support and assistance to other areas
- Enormous demands on healthcare system
- Delays and shortages in availability of vaccines and antiviral drugs
- Potential disruption of national and community infrastructures including transportation, commerce, utilities and public safety due to widespread illness and death among workers and their families and concern about on-going exposure to virus

8



OPHEP

## HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan Sets HHS Responsibilities

- Conduct outbreak investigations, as requested
- Conduct epidemiological and laboratory-based studies (“special studies”)
- Provide ongoing information from national influenza surveillance system
- Expand supply of antiviral drugs by stimulating increased U.S. based production capacity
- Expand U.S. based production capacity for pandemic vaccine and working with manufacturers to ensure that pandemic vaccine is produced at full capacity

9



### **HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan Sets HHS Responsibilities**

- Distribute public stocks of vaccines, when available
- Provide guidance on community containment strategies, including travel restrictions, school closings, and quarantine
- Communicating with public via news media
- Monitoring response
- Distribute public stocks of antiviral drugs and other medical supplies from SNS to states

10



### **HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan Sets State and Local Responsibilities**

- Enhance disease surveillance to ensure early detection of first cases in jurisdiction
- Distribute public stocks of antivirals and vaccines and provide local physicians and hospital administrators with updated guidance on clinical management and infection control as situation unfolds
- Prevent local disease transmission using a range of containment strategies
- Provide ongoing communication with public regarding response effort including purpose and duration of containment measures
- Provide psychological and social support services to emergency field workers and other responders

11



## Case for Strong Community Planning

- An influenza pandemic may emerge with little warning, affecting a large number of people within a short space of time
- First wave of pandemic, outbreaks may occur simultaneously in many locations nationwide, preventing a targeted concentration of national emergency resources (particularly from the Federal Government) in one or two places - and requiring each locality to depend in large measure on its own resources to respond
- A vaccine will not yet be available
- The supply of antiviral drugs will be limited

12



## Case for Strong Community Planning

- Local outbreaks may last for weeks or months and widespread illness in a particular community could lead to shortages in healthcare sector as well as in essential services (e.g. communications, public safety, transportation)
- Local public health and medical partners, alone, will not be able to decrease illness and morbidity, social disruption and economic loss
- Schools, businesses, community-based organizations, community leaders, first responders and others are needed

13



OPHEP

## Effective Local Response

- An effective local response will depend on:
  - Pre-established partnerships and collaborative planning by public health officials, hospital administrators and community leaders who have considered a range of best-case and worst-case scenarios
  - Flexibility and real-time decision-making, guided by epidemiologic information on pandemic virus
  - A well-informed public understanding dangers of pandemic influenza and accepting potential need for control measures like self-isolation and quarantine to prevent disease spread by reducing social contact
  - A public understanding and accepting rationale in prioritizing use of limited supplies of antiviral drugs and initial stocks of vaccines
  - All partners understanding and have practiced their respective roles

14



OPHEP

## Part 2: Public Health Guidance on Pandemic Influenza for State and Local Partners

- Provides simple planning process steps for state and local governments to take, such as:
  - Establishment, composition and duties of a Coordinating Committee
  - Review of state and local statutory provisions regarding issues such as licensure, closing of business or schools during a declared emergency, workers compensation, medical volunteer licensure
  - Formation and composition of local pandemic influenza task forces
  - Considerations for contingency planning (e.g. water, electricity, communications, sanitation, internet service providers, food and clean linens for health care facilities)
  - Identification of alternative care sites

15



## Part 2: Public Health Guidance on Pandemic Influenza for State and Local Partners

- Includes eleven supplements providing guidance on specific aspects of pandemic influenza planning and response. Activities in each supplement are organized by WHO classification system:
  - Pandemic Influenza Disease Surveillance
  - Laboratory Diagnostics
  - Healthcare Planning
  - Infection Control
  - Clinical guidelines
  - Vaccine Distribution and Use
  - Antiviral Drug Distribution and Use
  - Community Disease Control and Prevention
  - Management of Travel-Related Risk of Disease Transmission
  - Public Health Communications
  - Psychosocial Workforce Support Services

16



## Pandemic Influenza Resources

- Official U.S. Government website for information on pandemic influenza and avian influenza (<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>) contains:
  - HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan (HHS)
  - National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza (White House)
  - Planning tools (software, models, exercise)
  - State Summit information
  - Planning checklists
    - ❖ State and local
    - ❖ Families and individuals
    - ❖ Businesses
  - Risk communication resources
  - Updates and information on vaccines, medications and research

17



## Other Guidance and Resources Available to State and Local Jurisdictions

- CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement
  - <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/guidance05/index.asp>
- HRSA Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program Cooperative Agreement
  - <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/preview/guidancespecial/hrsa05001.htm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
  - <http://www.ahrq.gov>
- HHS National Vaccine Program Office
  - <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/>
- HHS Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness
  - <http://www.hhs.gov/ophep/>
- State summits
  - <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/convening.html>

18



## Pandemic Influenza State Summit Goals

- Raise awareness of pandemic influenza as a community issue in state, local and tribal elected and other officials.
- Present pandemic influenza preparedness to state and local partners -- particularly non-traditional partners (e.g. law enforcement, schools, business) -- not familiar with pandemic influenza or do not see themselves as having a role in a public health emergency.
- Allow state and local partners to ask questions of federal partners in-person
- State lead planning of content

19



**OPHEP Pandemic Influenza State Summit Planning**

- Each summit is a half-day event
- Governor's office is lead in planning of content (e.g. speakers, issues) with a focus on non-traditional partner involvement or role in pandemic influenza
- Governor's office staff determine who will be invited and summit size
- Governor's office coordinates with HHS' Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

20



**OPHEP**

**Questions?**

21