



ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FLU PANDEMIC: PREPAREDNESS PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS

Mitigation

The activities that are initiated in advance to prevent or temper the impact of a flu pandemic.

- Creation of a Influenza Pandemic Response plan – school, district, and county;
- Education, preparing and training your staff about a flu pandemic *before* a pandemic;
- Training for different roles during a crisis;
- Develop plan for communication with Health District, EOC, other School District;
- Support early identification through coordinated surveillance reporting – who reports the absence rate, what is usual and expected, what is the threshold for intervention.
- Stress handwashing/covering cough/staying at home when sick – for staff and students.
- During flu season, place signage by the entrance including, "if you are sick, don't come to school," as well as the handwashing/covering cough information.

Business continuity planning

(The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in the U.S., and influenza pandemic could infect up to 200 million people and cause between 100,000-200,000 deaths. 25-30% of the workforce could be affected any given time.)

- What will you do when a high number of your workforce are out ill?
- What will you do when bus drivers are sick?
- Prioritize critical functions;
- Identify positions needed to carry out critical functions;
- Review staffing plans to accommodate increased demand;
- Identify functions that could be suspended for up to 2 months;

FLU PANDEMIC: PREPAREDNESS PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS, cont.

Business continuity planning, cont.

- Cross train staff in critical functions;
- Plan for alternative work schedules;
- Create a mechanism for calling in staff: emergency planning;
- Consider and prepare for the **psychological impact** on staff, teachers and students;

Educate staff for self-monitoring of Influenza-like symptoms

- Symptoms
- Stay home when sick
- Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette
- Advise staff to prepare themselves and their families: emergency kits at home

Influenza vaccination

Encourage and facilitate vaccination of employees against Human Influenza with recent seasonal human influenza vaccine.

Monitor illness

Develop systems to monitor your staff and clients for influenza-like illnesses; report to the Health Department any outbreaks, increased absenteeism.

School closure decisions would hopefully be reached jointly between school administration and public health (ultimately the health officer).

Antivirals and vaccines

In your plan, include discussions about antivirals and vaccines. Be aware that during a pandemic, there will be limited medications and supplies; vaccines will probably take several months to develop. There will be discussion about prioritizing and triaging the use of medications and vaccines.

Communication

Define decision-making policies and coordination within your facility during a crisis. Develop communication plans with respect to students' families.