Pandemic Influenza Planning
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US Health & Human Services (HHS) Pandemic Influenza Plan

Public Health Guidance

- Pandemic Influenza Surveillance
- Laboratory Diagnostics
- Healthcare System Planning
- Infection Control
- Clinical Guidelines
- Vaccine Distribution and Use
- Antiviral Drug Distribution and Use
- Community Disease Control and Prevention
- Managing Travel-Related Risk of Disease Transmission
- Public Health Communications
- Workforce Support: Psychosocial Considerations and Information Needs
- http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/
HHS Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan

Major Themes

• Coordination among Federal, state and local government
• Surveillance and containment measures
• Stockpiling of antivirals and vaccines
• Increasing health care surge capacity
• Public education and communications
• Sustained human-to-human transmission anywhere in the world will trigger a pandemic response by the U.S.
• At the onset of a pandemic, antiviral drugs from public stockpiles will be distributed to predetermined priority groups.
• At the start of a pandemic, vaccine, will be procured and distributed to state and local health departments for immunization of predetermined priority groups.
Pandemic Influenza
Role of Local Public Health

- Surveillance: early detection, characterize epidemiology, monitor impact
- Distribution of antiviral drug stocks and vaccine
- Provide guidance on clinical management & infection control
- Implement community containment strategies
  - Assure legal preparedness and address overlapping authorities
- Communication to public
- Facilitate healthcare system planning and response
- Psychological and social support to emergency responders
Pandemic Influenza Surveillance

• **State and local responsibilities:**
  – Enhanced surveillance for detection of the first cases.
  – Surveillance components: virologic, outpatient, hospitalization, and mortality.
  – Weekly data on outpatient visits for ILI, hospitalizations, and deaths

• **National (HHS/CDC) responsibilities:**
  – Issue updated case definitions and guidance for laboratory testing and enhanced surveillance.
  – Assist state and local health departments, as requested.
  – Analyze influenza surveillance data on a regular and timely basis.
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Healthcare System Preparedness

• Develop written healthcare facility plans that address:
  – disease surveillance
  – hospital communications
  – education and training of staff
  – triage, clinical evaluation and surge capacity
  – facility access
  – occupational health
  – use and administration of vaccines and antiviral drugs
  – supply chain and access to critical inventory needs
  – mortuary issues

• Develop regional plans

• Communication between the healthcare and public health sectors

• Legal issues
Pandemic Influenza
Healthcare System Preparedness

• Implement new patient triage, evaluation, admission and clinical management procedures
  – Revise criteria for hospital admission
  – Screen all referrals for admission: no direct admits
  – Limit or cancel elective admissions and surgeries
  – Early discharge of patients: role of home healthcare agencies
  – Standardized evaluation and management protocols

• Use surgical ambulatory care centers for necessary surgeries
  Coordinate with outpatient and home health organizations

• Expand ICU and total bed capacity

• Have staffing plans to meet increased demand for services

• Define critical staff for preventive interventions
Pandemic Influenza
Healthcare System Preparedness

• Need a standardized, coordinated and equitable healthcare system response

• Requires uniform understanding (and application) of definitions and “triggers” for:
  – Canceling elective admissions and surgery
  – Early discharge of patients
  – Application of “altered standards of care” in mass casualty event:
    Utilization/rationing of critical care resources
  – Antiviral drug and vaccine use
  – Implementation and utilization of community-based surge capacity/facilities
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Healthcare System Preparedness: Healthcare Coalition

• Goals
  – Strengthen the healthcare system’s emergency preparedness and response to all hazards
  – Increase medical surge capacity
  – Improve coordination and communication during emergency response

• Objectives
  – Expand the health system’s emergency response capacity through regional agreements and plans
  – Coordinate the emergency response of health care organizations through strengthening and/or development of effective communication systems
  – Integrate the health system’s response into the larger emergency response
  – Advise public officials on health policy matters during emergencies
Pandemic Influenza Planning
Emergency Management: Maintenance of Critical Services

• Maintain essential services in both the health and non-health sectors
• Impact of widespread absenteeism on human infrastructure responsible for critical community services
• Identify essential services that, if interrupted, would pose a serious threat to public safety or significantly interfere with the ongoing response to the pandemic
• Develop contingency plans to provide back-up of such services and/or replacement personnel
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Communication

• Good communication can guide the public, the media and health care providers in responding appropriately and complying with exposure-control measures
• Provide accurate, consistent and comprehensive information
• Address rumors, inaccuracies and misperceptions promptly
• Need coordination of messages
• Guidance to community members on actions to protect themselves, family members and colleagues
• Contradictions and confusion can undermine public trust and impede control measures
Healthcare System Emergency Preparedness
Pandemic Influenza – Community Containment
Healthcare System Emergency Preparedness
Pandemic Influenza - Legal Authorities

• During a pandemic the Health Officer will evaluate the need for outbreak containment and response measures

• Social distancing: school closures, cancellations of large public gatherings, restrictions on public transportation

• Temporary reorganizing of medical services, potentially including curtailment of medical services -- for example, cancellations of non-urgent elective hospital admissions and/or surgeries -- and redirection of available resources

• Stakeholders need to be involved in developing standards, expectations and policy related to healthcare system response measures
Pandemic Influenza Planning
Potential Community Measures to Decrease Transmission

• Some measures may be most useful early in outbreak and with strains that are not efficiently transmitted
  – Travel advisories/limit travel to affected areas
  – Screening travelers from affected areas
  – Limit large public gatherings; close schools
  – Encourage telecommuting
  – Limit availability of public transportation
  – Quarantine of exposed persons
  – Education to allow early identification and isolation of cases
  – Hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette
  – Wear masks in public (?)
THANK YOU!