Influenza Pandemic Preparedness in Thailand: Cooperation between Public and Private Sectors

APEC Virtual Symposium
30 May 2008

Bureau of Emerging Infectious Diseases
Department of Disease Control
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
Overview

- Rationale
- What have been done?
- What is future plan?
Potential impacts of influenza pandemic

- Large number of absenteeism (Illness/deaths/care/anxiety both employee/their family members and others)
- Disruption of infrastructure (water-supply, electricity, transportation, medical services)
- Disruption of network
Potential concerns on a business

- How will a business run with many staffs away?
- How will school closures affect the staffs?
- What if the demand has changed?
- How to communicate with staffs, suppliers and others?
- How to work with employees, other business, and government during a pandemic?
How to minimise these challenges?

Business Continuity Plan

– Prepare for staffs working at home
– Advance contract with suppliers
– Alternative outsourcing
– Designate more than one supply chain
– Alternative channels to communicate with staffs during pandemic
– Allocate resources to protect staffs and etc.
The first step (I)

Guideline on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for private sectors

- Preparedness among public health sectors
- Preparedness among private sectors: plan for
  - Impact on business
  - Impact on employees and customers
  - SOP during the pandemic
  - Resource allocation for employees and customers
  - Communication with employee
  - Collaborations with other sectors and contributing to community
- Preparedness plan checklist for large and small/medium enterprises
  - Disease prevention and control checklist
  - Business continuity Checklist
The first step (II)

- Training for the facilitators:
  - Banks, food industries
  - Infrastructure: electricity, water-supply, fuel
  - Education sectors
  - International organisation

- 2 workshops in April and June 2007
The national strategic plan for prevention and control of AI and Influenza Pandemic Preparedness (2008-2010)

4 strategies are:

1. Systematisation of poultry husbandry
2. Disease surveillance, prevention and control in animals and humans
3. Preparedness for influenza pandemic
4. Collaboration among public, private and international sectors
Collaboration among public, private and international sectors

- To develop collaboration with private sectors:
  - Information sharing
  - Resource mobilisation
  - Business continuity plan
Lessons learned

- Need more information to initiate the development of BCP among private sectors
- Need more participation from private sectors
- Need to raise concern on pandemic preparedness among private sectors
Future plan

- Organize workshops for private sectors to develop their BCP
- Develop self-driven mechanism for cooperation, training and information sharing between public and private sectors
- Improve guideline, SOP and policy development
Thank you