

Business Planning

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

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Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

What is Pandemic Influenza?

- Global or worldwide disease outbreak
- Occurs when a **new** influenza A virus emerges for which there is little or **no resistance** in humans, begins to cause serious illness, and then **spreads easily** from person to person.



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How Likely is a Flu Pandemic?

- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention...
“Pandemic Influenza is our biggest worldwide challenge.”
- Not a question of “**IF**”, but “**When**”.



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Characteristics and Challenges of a Pandemic:

- Rapid worldwide spread
- Health Care Systems overloaded
- Inadequate medical supplies
- Economic and social disruption



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• Pandemic Influenza in the 20th Century

- 1918 Flu Pandemic caused 500,000 U.S. deaths, 40 million world-wide
- 1957 Flu Pandemic caused 70,000 U.S. deaths, 1-2 million world-wide
- 1968 Flu Pandemic caused 34,000 U.S. deaths, 700,000 world-wide



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- General info
- Avian Flu – aka bird flu, H5N1
 - spreads among birds
 - Does not normally infect humans
 - Can be deadly
 - No confirmed human to human transmission



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• Implications for Human Health:

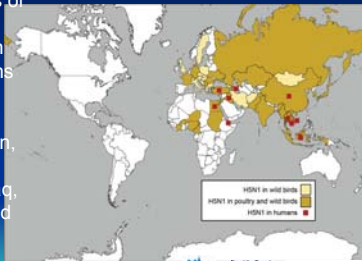
- Infection with the virus results in very serious disease especially in young adults.
- Concern that the virus will become highly infectious for humans and spread easily from person to person. That could mark the start of a global outbreak.



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• Current Outbreak of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) in the World

As of September 8, 2006, there are 244 human cases and 143 deaths that have been reported in ten countries: Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam.



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Food Safety:

- Eating properly handled and cooked poultry is safe.
- Poultry products imported into the US must meet all safety standards.
- No poultry from countries with confirmed bird flu (H5N1) can be imported into the US.



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WHO Phases of Pandemic Alert

Inter-pandemic phase	Low risk of human cases	1
New virus in animals, no human cases	Higher risk of human cases	2
Pandemic alert	No or very limited human-to-human transmission	3
New virus causes human cases	Evidence of increased human-to-human transmission	4
	Evidence of significant human-to-human transmission	5
Pandemic	Efficient and sustained human-to-human transmission	6



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• Transmission:

- Spread by droplets from coughing, sneezing, talking and contact with infected contaminated surfaces.
- Typical incubation period: 2 days.
- Infected persons are contagious one day before symptoms, even more so in first several days of symptoms.



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- **Seasonal Flu**
 - Seasonal
 - Viruses not new
 - Vaccine on hand
 - More than 200,000 hospitalizations per year (36,000 deaths)
 - Easily spread from person to person
- **Pandemic Influenza**
 - Global outbreak
 - New flu virus
 - Vaccine not on hand at first
 - Serious human illness
 - Easily spread from person to person



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- **Impact of a Pandemic – Health Care**
Vaccine will probably not be available in the early stages of a pandemic, and the need for vaccine is likely to outstrip supply when it does become available.



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Medical Treatment During a Pandemic

- **Antiviral Agents**
 - Can prevent complications if taken in time
 - May not be effective against a pandemic virus
 - Supplies at this time are extremely limited
 - Resources would be prioritized (based on national guidance)



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- **Avian Flu – In Humans** What are the symptoms of avian flu in humans?
 - Typical flu-like symptoms (fever, sore throat, cough)
 - Rapidly progresses to serious lung disease
 - Pneumonia
 - Severe respiratory distress
 - Other severe and life threatening complications



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Pandemic Influenza In U.S.

- What if...?

Health Outcomes	15% Gross Attack Rate	35% Gross Attack Rate
Fatalities	87,000	207,000
Hospitalizations	315,000	735,000
Outpatient Visits	18 million	42 million
Self-care ILL	21 million	50 million



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Preparing for the Pandemic:

- **Federal Response**
Stockpiling anti-virals and vaccines and working with industry to expand capacity.
- **State Response**
Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) may be used.



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Preparing for the Pandemic

Local Health Departments are the first line of response in a flu pandemic



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Preparing for the Pandemic

Role of the local health department:

- Declaration of Public Health Emergency
- Surveillance and Tracking
- Isolation and Quarantine as Appropriate
- Vaccine and Pharmaceutical Delivery
- Public Information and Communication



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- **Preparing for the Pandemic**
- Local response – What's in place
 - Early Warning Systems (Abstrac, RODS / OTC)
 - Communicable Disease Reporting System (CDRS)
 - Emergency Operations Plan and Departmental Operations Center Activated in an Emergency
 - DRAFT Influenza Pandemic Response Plan



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Mass Clinic Plans for Vaccine or Medication Distribution

- PODS – Point of Distribution
- 20 Clinics in Columbus; 10 clinics in Franklin County -geographically located
- Wireless access needed for documentation
- Personnel Needs: public health/safety/ other staff/volunteers
- POD hours and duration will be determined by nature of the emergency



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What Can You Do Now?

- Create a pandemic plan, both for your family and business
- Are you Ready in 3?



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Caring for Someone with Influenza

- Recognize Pandemic Influenza Symptoms
- Supply plenty liquids, medications to relieve symptoms
- Know when to call Health Care Professional high fever, chills, coughing thick mucus, dehydration
- Reduce fever (acetaminophen or ibuprofen)



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Why Businesses Need to Plan

- No one knows for sure exactly how widespread or severe an impact will come from the next pandemic.
- The large number of sick and incapacitated people will include a significant segment of your workforce - 25 to 40 percent.
- Limitations on public gatherings and fear among healthy people could limit the number of customers who may be able to access your services.



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Why Businesses Need to Plan

- Key supply and distribution networks could be significantly impacted.
- Close quarters and large gatherings (such as tight office spaces or large meetings) may encourage person-to-person spread of the disease.
- Ill children and family members may cause employees to miss work.



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Prevention:

In the event of a pandemic, practicing containment activities to minimize risk of further infection.

- Site Controls
- Social Distancing
- Sanitation Process



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• Site Controls

- Plan to minimize the chance of infectious persons entering work site
- Applies to staff & visitors



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• Site Controls

- Set up prominent notices at all entry points to the facility, advising staff and visitors not to enter site if they have symptoms of influenza
- Set up Key General Infection Control (basic hygiene & hand hygiene) notices around workplace
- Ensure the workplace have adequate supplies of tissues, hand hygiene products, cleaning/disinfectant supplies as well as masks for people who become ill at work
- Consider implementing entry screening process and at what stage



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• Educate employees & employers on current criteria for returning to work

- 5 days have passed since symptoms of illness began
- Fever has resolved for 24 hours
- Cough is improving
- Recovery is 4-6 weeks even though may be back to work



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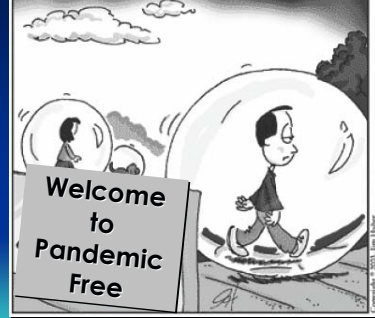
• **Social Distancing Definition**

- Is a plan to reduce your risk of catching the flu
- It refers to a plan to reduce the frequency of contact between people.
- Generally it refers to mass gatherings but the same plan can be used in the workplace



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POLITICALLY CORRECT By Jim Huber



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Social Distancing Strategies

- Avoid meeting people face to face
 - Use telephone, video conferencing and the Internet to conduct business as much as possible, even when participants are in the same building
- If a face to face meeting is unavoidable
 - Minimize meeting time, choose a large meeting room and sit at least 3 feet away from one another, avoid shaking hands



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Social Distancing Strategies

- Bring lunch
 - Avoid the cafeteria and crowded restaurants
- Do not congregate in lunchrooms or other areas where people socialize
 - Do what needs to be done & then leave the area.
- Avoid public transport
 - Walk, cycle, drive a car or go early or late to avoid rush hour crowding at the workplace.



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Prevent the Spread:

Infection Control

- Hand washing
- Cover your cough



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Sanitation Strategies

- During a pandemic period office sanitation should be increased.
 - Telephone sets in common areas should be cleaned prior to use, consider individual headsets, keyboard covers
 - Anti-bacteria solutions should be applied daily to all common areas (household sani-wipes work well against influenza)



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Plan for Impact on your business

- Identify essential functions within each dept, i.e. does the health dept need to do restaurant inspections during a pandemic?
- Plan for increase or decrease in availability of your product, i.e. if trucks can't transport your product because of absenteeism then what is your backup plan?
- Identify in each dept what functions or positions can be done from someone's home and set up systems to implement
- Perform drills to evaluate how these plans work



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Plan for Impact on your employees and customers

- Plan & allow for absences in your workforce
- Implement guidelines to modify face to face contact, i.e. no hand shakes, conference call meetings, webcams
- Seasonal vaccination plan for all employees



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Establish policies

- Sick leave
- Flexible worksite
- Preventing spread at worksite
- Restricting travel to affected geographic areas



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Allocate Resources

- Sufficient infection control supplies, i.e. sanitizers
- Enhance technology infrastructures



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Communicate and educate employees

- Pandemic Influenza 101
- Anticipate fear and anxiety
- Tell them what your company is doing
- Develop platforms/hotlines for pandemic status and actions



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Coordinate with external organizations

- Share best practices with other businesses in your community, chamber of commerce and associations



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Conclusion

The only thing more difficult than planning for an emergency is having to explain why you didn't.



Pandemic Influenza Resources

- U.S. Pandemic Influenza
 - www.pandemicflu.gov
- Columbus Public Health
 - www.columbuspublichealth.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/
- Ohio Pandemic Influenza
 - www.ohiopandemicflu.gov
- Franklin County Board of Health
 - www.franklincountyohio.gov/health
- Homeland Security
 - www.ready.gov
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 - www.uschamber.com/issues

