

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update

August 11, 2006

Sedgwick County
Health Department

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Wichita, Kansas

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www.sedgwickcounty.org

Local News:

The Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise occurred on August 8th at the Sedgwick County Extension Office. There was a large turnout of participants for the tabletop exercise. Over 65 participants from the Pandemic Influenza Work Group (PIWG), 6 staff facilitators, and 3 observers were in attendance. An after action report will be completed and presented to the PIWG at the next PIWG meeting on September 19th.

Recent activities of the PIWG subcommittees:

The PIWG Communications subcommittee and the PIWG Animal Surveillance subcommittee continue to collaborate on pandemic flu public information strategies. On August 9, the *Fast Fact sheet on Avian Influenza for Veterinarians* was included as an insert into the September 2006 monthly newsletter of the Wichita Veterinary Medical Association.

Additionally, a *Fast Fact sheet on Bird Biosecurity* is being developed for the Poultry Exhibit at the Kansas State Fair, which will occur September 8 - 17. This fact sheet will be prominently displayed in the Poultry Exhibit for visitors, as well as poultry keepers. The collaboration between the PIWG subcommittees demonstrates how effective public information tools can be disseminated across various segments of society.

State News:

A Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Planning Symposium for Schools will occur on Thursday, September 7 in Topeka. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Adjutant General's Office will be hosting the event. This symposium will provide examples of how to plan to keep schools going during a flu

pandemic, including tools to assist with disseminating health information, planning for staff and student absences, and maintaining a learning environment during a flu pandemic. For more information, contact Jo Cook at 785-291-3367.

Federal News:

On August 9, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and state partners announced a collaborative effort to monitor wild migratory birds for the highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian influenza (HPAI H5N1) beyond Alaska. Surveillance will now include the lower 48 states, Hawaii and other Pacific islands. The USDA has completed cooperative agreements with 48 states and is finalizing agreements with 2 states. These agreements provide nearly \$4 million for state agencies to sample specific species of migratory birds at appropriate sites under plans coordinated through the four national flyway councils.

International:

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health in Indonesia has confirmed the country's 56th case of human infection with the H5N1 Avian influenza virus. Of the 56 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 44 have been fatal.

On August 14, the WHO released its weekly report of the cumulative number of confirmed human cases of Avian flu A/(H5N1). There are a total of 238 reported cases and 139 deaths attributed to the Avian flu.

RESOURCES:

Visit the Sedgwick County website at www.sedgwickcounty.org for a copy of various fact sheets such as the Food Safety Fact Sheet, Avian Flu Fact Sheet, and Hand Washing Flyers. For more information, call the Sedgwick County Health Department at 660-7360.



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