

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update

August 25, 2006

Sedgwick County
Health Department

1900 E. 9th Street

Wichita, Kansas

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www.sedgwickcounty.org

Local News:

Sedgwick County Health Department will participate in a three day exercise August 29–31 to test our emergency pharmaceutical distribution plans.

Representatives from the Sedgwick County Health Department recently met with the Wichita Child Care Association (WCCA). The WCCA was given the child care check list and they agreed to appoint someone to begin working on a plan for child care settings.

Recent activities of the PIWG subcommittees:

The PIWG Animal Subcommittee met on August 16 to review the Bird Biosecurity Fact Sheet to be handed out at the Kansas State Fair in the Poultry Exhibit area.

The PIWG Special Needs Population Subcommittee met on August 18 to discuss the Kansas Department of Emergency Management's (KDEM) emergency planning for special needs populations that occurred last month. Suggestions include making sure emergency plans and agreements for nursing homes, transportation plans, etc. are up-to-date and functional. In addition, it was suggested to make sure alternate plans and contact lists are up-to-date.

The PIWG Communications sub-committee will meet on August 31 to view the "PR in a Pandemic: Planning for Communications During an Avian Influenza Outbreak" tele-seminar sponsored by the Public Relations Society of America.

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:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has been working with the World Health Organization (WHO) to encourage sharing the sequences for viruses from countries with Avian flu A/(H5N1) activity. On August 22, the CDC announced they have released genetic blueprints for over 650 genes of influenza viruses through a database which is accessible to researchers worldwide. This information will allow researchers to learn more about treatment of the virus.

International:

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health in Indonesia has confirmed the country's 60th case of human infection with Avian flu A/(H5N1). Of the 60 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 46 have been fatal.

As of August 23, the WHO's cumulative number of confirmed human cases of Avian flu A/(H5N1) totaled 241 reported cases and 141 deaths.

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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