

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update

September 8, 2006

Local News:

The Sedgwick County Pandemic Influenza webpage has been updated! The webpage, www.sedgwickcounty.org, includes valuable forms and information.

and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Adjutant General's Office hosted the event to provide examples of how to plan to keep schools going during a flu pandemic.

Federal News:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that subtypes of Avian flu A/(H5N1) have been detected in samples of wild birds in Maryland and Pennsylvania. These subtypes have been ruled out as being the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain that has spread through birds in Asia, Europe and Africa.

On September 1, the USDA released information on the two types of avian influenza identified as H5N1. You can find this information on the USDA website at www.usda.gov.

Detection information on wild bird sampling for early detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the United States is now available for the public to view by visiting <http://wildlifedisease.nbio.gov/ai/>.

Scientists from the University of Colorado and the CDC have developed a microchip-based test that may allow more labs to diagnose influenza infections. This chip successfully distinguished among 72 influenza strains including Avian flu A/(H5N1).

International:

The United Press International released an article on their website on September 6, stating Avian flu A/(H5N1) outbreaks have occurred in birds in four countries in recent days.

- Four cases in Egypt, all in domestic flocks.
- An outbreak in Indonesia claimed 596 chickens at the end of August.
- Cambodia and Vietnam have also reported the presence of Avian flu A/(H5N1).

Sedgwick County
Health Department

Sedgwick County Health Department participated in a three day exercise last week in order to test Mass Pharmaceutical Distribution (MPD) plans from start to finish. Several sites were tested for first responders. In addition, the Code Red Notification System and Cache Warehouse were also opened and exercised.

1900 E. 9th Street

Wichita, Kansas

The Pandemic Influenza Work Group (PIWG) will meet on September 19 to review the After Action Report from the PIWG Exercise which took place on August 8. The structure and frequency of the PIWG meetings will be changing to make the future planning processes more efficient.

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316-660-7300

A "business toolkit" of preparedness information will be distributed at the Wichita Metro Chamber Expoventure, Sept. 21, at Century II.

www.sedgwickcounty.org

Recent activities of the PIWG subcommittees:

The PIWG Animal Subcommittee met on August 30 to discuss ways to educate poultry owners, pet shops, and others on pandemic influenza.

The PIWG Communications sub-committee met 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 occurred yesterday in Topeka. The Kansas Department of Health



Sedgwick County...
working for you

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.