

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update

October 27, 2006

Sedgwick County
Health Department

1900 E. 9th Street

Wichita, Kansas

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www.sedgwickcounty.org

Local News:

The PIWG Steering Committee met on October 17th to discuss goals and objectives for each of the sub-committees. Currently, there are 17 subcommittees, two of which have been recently formed due to the need to address additional areas not previously covered. At the PIWG Steering Committee meeting it was decided that the bi-weekly updates become monthly, being distributed following the meeting. A lengthier update will go out quarterly. Based on the results of the pandemic influenza table top exercise, corrective actions have been recommended and timelines for completion have been set by the PIWG committee chairs.

The Sedgwick County Health Department will test the functionality of their Mass Vaccination Drive-thru Clinic on Saturday, November 4, 2006 at the Kansas Coliseum. Sedgwick County's Influenza Pandemic Mass Vaccination plan calls for vaccinating approximately 43,000 people in an 18 hour period per day. This exercise is designed to test that plan.

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners held a workshop on Tuesday, October 3 to discuss Sedgwick County's plan in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak. A copy of Sedgwick County's plan is available on our website at www.sedgwickcounty.org.

On Wednesday, October 18, Sedgwick County distributed an insert through the Wichita Eagle designed to answer questions the public may have regarding the differences between the seasonal, bird and pandemic flu as well as tips for staying healthy. A copy of this insert is also available on our website, www.sedgwickcounty.org.

Upcoming meetings:

- The PIWG Steering Committee will meet on November 21, 2006.
- Members of the PIWG will meet on January 16, 2007.

State News:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be presenting the template of the new Community Containment Standard Operating Guideline and a tabletop training designed for this SOG. Presentations will take place throughout November in various cities across the state.

Federal News:

Federal scientists have developed a vaccine that protects mice against the killer 1918 influenza virus. They also have created a technique for identifying antibodies that neutralize this virus, a tool that could help contain future pandemic flu strains. These findings are important, the researchers say, to understanding and preventing the recurrence of the H1N1 influenza virus that caused the 1918 pandemic and to protecting against virulent flu strains in the future, including the H5N1 avian flu virus.

International:

As of October 16, 2006, there have been 256 confirmed human cases and 151 confirmed deaths due to H5N1 Avian Influenza. None of these has occurred in the United States.

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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