

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update

November 29, 2006

Sedgwick County
Health Department

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www.sedgwickcounty.org

Local News:

The PIWG Steering Committee met on November 21st. The committees will be working to develop a list of resources needed to meet their identified objectives and goals. The Clinical Guidelines for Primary Care Providers have been mailed to all physicians and nurse practitioners in Sedgwick County. Extra copies are available at the Southeast Oliver health station.

The Sedgwick County Health Department tested the functionality of their Mass Vaccination Drive Thru Clinic on Saturday, November 4, 2006 at the Kansas Coliseum, substituting oranges for people. Approximately 1,800 people (oranges) were vaccinated during the 1 ½ hour exercise.

Upcoming meetings:

- The PIWG Steering Committee will meet on December 19, 2006.
- Members of the PIWG will meet on January 16, 2007.

Federal News:

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt recently announced the purchase of additional vaccine that could be used in the event of a potential influenza pandemic. The department has awarded contracts totaling \$199.45 million to three vaccine makers to manufacture 5.3 million 90-microgram doses of influenza vaccine designed to protect against H5N1 influenza virus strain. These newest vaccine purchases supplement the existing stockpile of 5.9 million does of H5N1 vaccine and build on the department's plans to buy enough vaccine for 20 million people.

A University of New Hampshire scientist is leading an international team of researchers trying to understand how bird flu spreads among wild birds and poultry. The team will combine satellite images showing rice farming cycles and wetlands with other research on epidemics, wild bird migration and poultry farming practices. The work is focused on China, where there have been several outbreaks.

International:

As of November 13, 2006 there have been 258 confirmed human cases and 153 confirmed deaths due to H5N1 Avian Influenza. None of these have occurred in the United States.

The Nha Trang Institute of Vaccines and Biological Products in central Khanh Hoa province has announced that it has successfully produced 5,000 doses of a H5N1 vaccine for humans from chicken embryos.

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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