

# *fast* FACTS...

*about Sedgwick County Government*



## *Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update*

December 29, 2006

Sedgwick County  
Health Department

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[www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org)

### Local News:

The PIWG Steering Committee met on December 19<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that the school subcommittee will meet with members of the school district in February to discuss pandemic influenza. Kathy Hubka announced they do have a template and will be putting together a plan. The animal surveillance subcommittee is putting together a response summary sheet. It was reported that Jennifer Gluszek accepted the vacant position with Sedgwick County Communications Department. There was discussion about using churches for mass care instead of Century II. Several other subcommittees reported on their progress and it was announced that Matthew Bogner will become the Chair of the surveillance subcommittee due to Mansoor Tahir's departure.

### Upcoming meetings:

- The PIWG will meet on January 16, 2007.
- The PIWG Steering Committee will meet on February 20, 2007.

### State:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment announced that Kansas ranks second in the nation in the 2006 Trust for America's Health (TFAH) public health preparedness report. Kansas met nine out of 10 criteria for public health emergency preparedness. The annual TFAH report uses ten indicators to rate preparedness, with most of the indicators changing each year. The new set of indicators for this year focused on a variety of areas tied to public health and hospital preparedness, including laboratory and surveillance capacity, flu vaccination, Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) readiness and other issues. The single indicator that Kansas did not meet involved SNS delivery, and was only met by 15 states. The complete report, "Ready or Not?"

Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism," can be found at [www.healthyamericans.org/reports/](http://www.healthyamericans.org/reports/).

### Federal News:

The U.S. Government is working toward a goal of expanding domestic influenza vaccine surge capacity for the production of pandemic influenza vaccines for the entire population within six months of a pandemic declaration. However, at the beginning of a pandemic, the scarcity of pre-pandemic influenza vaccine and pandemic vaccine will require that the limited supply be prioritized for distribution and administration. The Department of Health and Human Services requests input from the public on prioritization of the distribution and administration of both pre-pandemic and pandemic influenza vaccines based on various pandemic severity and vaccine supply scenarios. Additional information and instructions on how to submit comments can be found at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/PIV/RFI/>.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently announced \$11.4 million in new contracts to four companies working to develop new diagnostic tests that doctors and field epidemiologists could eventually use to quickly and accurately detect human cases of H5N1 avian influenza and other emerging influenza viruses, as well as more common influenza viruses.

### International:

As of December 27, 2006 there have been 261 confirmed human cases and 157 confirmed deaths due to H5N1 Avian Influenza. None of these have occurred in the United States.

### RESOURCES:

Visit the Sedgwick County website at [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://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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