

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update

July 28, 2006

Sedgwick County
Health Department

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Local News:

The Pandemic Influenza Work Group (PIWG) will conduct a pandemic flu tabletop exercise on August 8th. The PIWG will utilize scenarios established by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), revised to meet the needs of Sedgwick County. The pandemic flu tabletop exercise will provide an opportunity to test the *Sedgwick County Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan*. Since this plan is considered a living document, it is critical to emphasize that it is subject to improvement and change as we continue to enhance the strategies and practices.

Recent activities of the PIWG subcommittees:

The PIWG Communications subcommittee met on July 26th. The PIWG Communications subcommittee reviewed and provided input regarding *The Pandemic Influenza Business Continuity Guide*. The Communications subcommittee is also coordinating the dissemination of the Avian Flu Fast Fact sheet for Veterinarians with the Wichita Veterinary Medical Association.

The PIWG Animal subcommittee met on July 26th. Charles Cope of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is writing a draft plan for the *Sedgwick County Interagency Preliminary Coordination and Communication Plan for Morbidity and Mortality Events in Wild Birds*. This plan will include surveillance and testing.

State News:

The Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD) through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is implementing an Avian flu surveillance program. This program will conduct surveillance efforts on three major domestic waterfowl and poultry groups

within Kansas: live bird markets, upland gamebirds, backyard flocks. KAHD and USDA will begin testing these three categories of flocks for Avian flu. In addition to the surveillance efforts, the KAHD is increasing biosecurity awareness for personnel that work in the poultry industry. *Biosecurity for the Birds*, is a national campaign coordinated by the USDA to promote Avian health through biosecurity efforts. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity for more information.

Federal News:

On July 20th, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a contract award with GlaxoSmithKline to provide zanamivir (Relenza®) to all 50 states. The contract allows states to purchase up to 15.5 million antiviral treatment courses as part of the HHS program to assure that the country has stockpiles to cover at least 25% of the U.S. population.

International:

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health in Indonesia has confirmed the country's 54th case of human infection with the H5N1 Avian influenza virus. Of the 54 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 42 have been fatal.

On July 26th, the WHO released its weekly report of the cumulative number of confirmed human cases of Avian flu A/(H5N1). Since 2003, there have been a total of 232 reported cases and 134 deaths attributed to the H5N1 Avian flu virus.

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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