

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update

April 24, 2007

Sedgwick County
Health Department

1900 E. 9th Street

Wichita, Kansas

67214

316-660-7300

www.sedgwickcounty.org

Local News:

The PIWG Steering Committee met on April 17th. Ricky Shellenbarger from Emergency Management was a guest at the meeting and presented information regarding a grant they have received with a focus on special populations. Three parts to the grant were discussed: the need to identify facilities that address special needs populations; the need for a registry of individuals with special needs; and plans for conducting a tabletop and a full-scale exercise. Animal hospitals and clinics are also being identified with plans to assess the number of animals each facility can shelter as part of the grant. Chairs for the Mass Care, Animal Surveillance, Special Needs (elderly & disabled), and First Responder and Medical First Receiver should add Shellenbarger to their meeting invite list.

The Chair for each subcommittee reported on the progress they have made since the last meeting.

- School: Collecting plans from schools outside of the Wichita 259 District.
- Mass Pharmaceutical Distribution: Working on an operations plan which should be completed in three months.
- Animal Surveillance: Providing flyers regarding avian influenza to pet shop owners, backyard bird owners and cock fighters.
- Surveillance, Monitoring and Investigation: Continuing to work with USD 259 to set up an electronic system for reporting student absences due to illnesses with flu symptoms. Three trigger symptoms have been identified.
- Communications: Developing messages for the United Way's 211 system.
- First Responder and Medical First Receiver: Meeting with 911 to continue work on modifying part of the ProQA system.

- Mass Care: Researching various models on how to utilize facilities for the care of people with flu that are not sick enough for hospital admission and do not have a support system at home to care for them.
- Special Needs (elderly and disabled): Beginning work on a special needs populations registry.
- Homeless and Faith-based: Recruiting members and developing a survey for churches. The survey will find whether or not churches are prepared for a disaster and the kind of services they can provide.

Upcoming meetings:

The quarterly PIWG meeting is May 15, 2007 at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita in the Robert's Amphitheater.

State:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sent out guidelines for the update of the state pandemic influenza plan. The due date for deliverables was April 16th. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is forming advisory groups to address community strategy for pan flu mitigation, antiviral distribution planning, and antiviral dispensing priorities.

The California Distance Learning Health Network has released "Pandemic Influenza and Public Health Law: What Public Health Departments Need to Know." This DVD self-study course facilitates partnering between local health departments and other key agencies within their jurisdiction to explore "what if" scenarios and clarify their respective roles. For more information, visit <http://cdlhn.com/default.htm>.



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Federal News:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has added a "Keep Bird Flu Out of the United States" poster and "Import Legal Birds and Bird Products" brochure to their website. For more information, visit http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu/.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced the first approval in the United States of a vaccine for humans against the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The vaccine could be used in the event the current H5N1 virus was to develop the capability to efficiently spread from human to human. The vaccine may provide early limited protection in the months before a vaccine, tailored to the pandemic strain of the virus could be developed and produced.

The vaccine is intended for people age 18 through 64 years who could be at increased risk of exposure to the H5N1 virus. The federal government has purchased the vaccine from the manufacturer, sanofi pasteur, for inclusion within the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile for distribution by public health officials. The vaccine will not be sold commercially.

International:

As of April 11, 2007 there have been 291 confirmed human cases and 172 confirmed deaths due to H5N1 avian influenza. None of these have occurred in the United States.

Scientists in Taiwan are preparing to mass produce a bird flu vaccine. The vaccine is expected to undergo human clinical trials next year. Researchers are able to produce about 7,000 doses a month in the laboratory and hope to increase this tenfold after construction of a pilot plant is completed before the end of this year. Taiwan's health authorities hope that a factory could be built with an annual capacity of 16 million doses of vaccine.

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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