

# *fast* FACTS...

*about Sedgwick County Government*



## *Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update*

March 5, 2007

Sedgwick County  
Health Department

1900 E. 9th Street

Wichita, Kansas

67214

316-660-7300

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

### Local News:

The PIWG Steering Committee met February 27<sup>th</sup>. The Chairs for each of the subcommittees reported on their progress.

- First Responder and Medical First Receiver: They have selected a Powered Air Purifying Respirator after looking at various models.
- Mass Vaccination: Planning a mock flu clinic for the Fall of 2007.
- Mass Care: Working through questions on who makes the decision on when alternative care sites are utilized.
- Animal Surveillance: Their plan is done and they have also completed text for a bird buyers and cock fighters' informational sheet. They will work with communications on getting this put together.
- Mental Health: Putting together a "disaster mental health plan."
- Mass Fatality: Ellen Bayhille has been working with this subcommittee as they move forward with the departure of Dr. Dudley. Ellen is also working on credentialing issues with Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.
- Special Populations (elderly and disabled): There was a suggestion of making available to nursing homes the "Prepare" checklist.
- Miscellaneous:
- Aaron Davis reported on a presentation that is taking place on April 6<sup>th</sup> by Business Executives for National Security, a nonprofit organization that works in the area of mass pharmaceutical distribution.
- Cindy Burbach passed around a list of the PLAN attachments and asked that everyone review the sections they have developed and forward any updates to her by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming meetings:

- The next PIWG Steering Committee meeting is March 20, 2007.
- The next PIWG meeting is May 15, 2007.

### State:

The Kansas State University (KSU) College of Veterinary Medicine and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has established a toll-free hotline for people to report concerns or ask questions regarding avian influenza. The hotline number is 1-800-566-4518. Calls will be responded to from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### International:

As of March 1, 2007 there have been 277 confirmed human cases and 167 confirmed deaths due to H5N1 Avian Influenza. None of these have occurred in the United States.

### Federal News:

The American Public Health Association (APHA) has released its blueprint for strengthening the nation's pandemic preparedness. One of APHA's top concerns is the need for additional resources for an already overburdened public health work force that may lack the resources to fully respond to a flu outbreak. Other needs include clear federal guidance on school closures, quarantine and occupational health in the event of a pandemic. The complete text of the pandemic influenza policy summary, APHA's Prescription for Pandemic Flu, with all recommendations, is available at <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/APHA+Prescription+for+Pandemic+Flu.htm>

A U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) panel has recommended that the agency approve the nation's first H5N1 influenza vaccine, despite new evidence that the vaccine is less protective than reported in a clinical trial last year. The vaccine is based on an H5N1 virus isolated from a Vietnamese patient in 2004.



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