

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update

September 24, 2007

Sedgwick County
Health Department

1900 E. 9th Street

Wichita, Kansas

67214

316-660-7300

www.sedgwickcounty.org

Local News:

The members of the Pandemic Influenza Work Group (PIWG) met on September 18th at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Topics discussed included seasonal flu shots, a worldwide pandemic flu update, and the results of a local faith-based survey.

Cindy Burbach reported that the Health Department along with other organizations has been assisting with responses to emergencies in recent months including the Greensburg tornado, Kansas flooding, and the explosion in Valley Center. This has provided many learning opportunities including the need for record keeping to ensure reimbursement for supplies; providing for the medication needs of people who are evacuated without their medications; what to do with pets when evacuees take their pets with them. The Health Department has also learned more about surge capacity and creating unfunded positions for additional staffing needs during emergencies. The Health Department has added inventory management system software that will be helpful for future management of resources.

PIWG Sub-committee Updates

Sub-committee chairs who were present gave the following updates on their groups' status.

Communications: Jenni Gluszek began attaching "germ proof your hands" tags to bottles of hand sanitizer on Friday, September 21. Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact Jenni. The sanitizer bottles will be distributed to elementary schools throughout Wichita. Donations are being sought to expand this program to the suburban districts.

Special Populations (Elderly and

Disabled): Met on September 17th and are focusing efforts on developing a contact and resource list that could be used during emergencies. Ricky Shellenbarger is doing GPS mapping of nursing homes and other special needs facilities. Also looking at busing/transportation capabilities and needs for schools, hospitals, nursing homes and others.

Mass Fatality: Their plan is written and the Health Department was able to purchase additional body bags for the Sedgwick County Forensic Science Center.

Special Populations (Schools): USD 259 is getting set up to report incidence of flu in students with one of three symptoms (GI, respiratory, and fever), which will be received by the Health Department on a daily basis.

Behavioral Health: The next meeting will be in October. Working on updating materials for handouts.

Surveillance, Monitoring and

Investigation: Matthew Bogner is no longer with the Health Department, but Janice reported that this committee is still evaluating First Watch, SYRIS and other surveillance reporting systems to find the best system. Sentinel sites are being expanded by two sites within the Wichita Clinic.

Hospitals/Mass Care: Additional sheltering needs are being worked on.

Upcoming meetings: The next PIWG Steering Committee meeting is **October 16** from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Health Department's 1530 S. Oliver, Suite 130 site.

The next Quarterly Meeting for all of the PIWG will be **January 15** from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, 1010 N. Kansas, Robert's Amphitheater.



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Federal News:

Australia, the North and South Poles and North and South America are Avian Flu free. Russia however has Avian Flu in domestic and wild bird populations near the Bering Strait, just a short distance from Alaska.

A new study by researchers at the University of Washington has confirmed that bird flu has been transmitted from human-to-human. They studied the case of a woman from Indonesia who caught the H5N1 bird flu virus from poultry in May 2006. Researchers confirm that the woman not only passed the virus on to her 10-year-old nephew, but also to other relatives. Seven of eight family members who were infected by the disease died.

International News:

As of September 10, 2007 there have been 328 confirmed human cases and 200 confirmed deaths due to H5N1 avian influenza reported for this year. None of these have occurred in the United States.

Germany reported a chance of H5N1 in frozen duck meat that reached consumers in Bavaria. The contaminated birds may have been missed during recent culling of over 205,000 infected birds from two poultry farms in August. The USDA recommends cooking the meat to temperatures above 165° F.

Indonesia reported a Sumatran man's recent death brought the region's total case rate of 106 and total death rate to 85. Animal-health experts believe the H5N1 virus has become endemic in poultry in some parts of Indonesia.

Russian officials announced the deaths of over 500 chickens due to avian influenza A virus, which triggered the culling of 22,000 birds from the infected farm.



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