

# *fast* FACTS...

*about Sedgwick County Government*



## *Pandemic Influenza (Flu) Update*

January 31, 2007

Sedgwick County  
Health Department

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### Local News:

The Pandemic Influenza Workgroup (PIWG) met on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Chairs from each subcommittee reported on the progress they have made since the last meeting.

Janice McCoy asked those in attendance to consider becoming a subject matter expert for the Risk Communications Standard Operating Guide (SOG). Those that are interested are asked to contact Amy Wood or Jennifer (Jenni) Gluszek.

### Subcommittee Reports

Jenni Gluszek is the new chair for the Communications subcommittee. Epidemiologist Matthew Bogner is the new Chair of the Surveillance, Monitoring and Investigation subcommittee.

Ellie Shore with the Animal surveillance, monitoring, care and intervention subcommittee reported that they will start work on a fact sheet for backyard flock owners and bird buyers.

Lynda Jones with the Special Needs (elderly and disabled) subcommittee reported that the business continuity of operations toolkit was mailed out to all nursing and assisted living homes to assist them in updating their emergency plans.

For the Physicians subcommittee, a letter was sent to the Medical Society asking for physician's assistance in addressing the needs that were discovered during the pandemic influenza exercise.

### Upcoming meetings:

- The PIWG Steering Committee will meet on February 20<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The PIWG will hold its next quarterly meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### State:

Jenni Gluszek and members of the PHEM team are working on the Risk Communications SOG. The deadline for submission to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Centers for Disease Control pandemic influenza phase II funding required the revision of the state's pandemic influenza plan to include an "Operational Plan" for disease containment.

### Federal News:

The United States Government has created a guide to assist U.S. businesses with overseas operations to prepare and implement pandemic business continuity. Additional information can be found at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>.

U. S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt recently announced that the Department has awarded a \$102.6 million, four-year contract to BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for advanced development of their influenza antiviral drug, peramivir. In laboratory studies thus far, peramivir has shown effectiveness against a number of influenza strains. Funding provided under the new contract will support further studies to determine if peramivir can be an effective treatment for the highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza.

### International:

As of January 22, 2007 there have been 269 confirmed human cases and 163 confirmed deaths due to H5N1 Avian Influenza. None of these have occurred in the United States.

Egypt is on high alert as the H5N1 strain of avian influenza becomes more resistant to the antiviral drug Tamiflu. The World Health Organization recently announced that a mutated strain of the virus with "reduced susceptibility" to Tamiflu had been discovered in two people infected with bird flu in northern Egypt.



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