

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC COMMUNITY TOOL CHEST

Avian (Bird Flu) and Pandemic Information

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) is caused by viruses and naturally occurs in wild and domestic birds. This avian flu currently being discussed is also referred to as H5N1 which describes the particular subtypes of this type A influenza.

Avian flu does not usually infect humans, but several cases of human infection have occurred since 1997. These human cases usually involved close contact with sick/infected poultry on small farms in Asia. The spread of avian influenza viruses from one ill person to another is very rare.

Experts are concerned about the H5N1 virus because all viruses have the ability to change or mutate. If this occurs, then it might be more easily spread from human to human which could cause a Pandemic.

A Pandemic is a global outbreak that results from the emergence of a new influenza virus that can cause serious illness in humans, and spreads easily from person to person.

This web page is designed like a tool chest, dedicated to educating the community, providing them with some tools, and answering questions they may have about Avian or Pandemic Influenza (Flu).

(Sources Used: CDC website, NYS Health Dept. website, Pandemic.gov website, WHO website)

Where Do I Begin?

To use this community tool chest, please start with "frequently asked questions" documents below. This will give you a base understanding of some of the common questions and/or misunderstandings of both the Avian and Pandemic Flu.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Bird Flu and You: Get the Facts About Bird Flu

Bird Flu and You (flyer)

Bird Flu Frequently Asked Questions

Pandemic Influenza Frequently Asked Questions

How Does Influenza Spread?

Flu viruses spread in respiratory droplets caused by coughing and sneezing. They usually spread from person to person, though sometimes people become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

Common Sense Precautions

Below are documents and flyers that can be posted, discussing common sense precautions that can help safeguard everyone's health:

"Protect Yourself and Others From Influenza"

"Don't Spread it Around"

"Your Health is in Your Hands"

"Respiratory Etiquette" (full size)

"Respiratory Etiquette" (half size)

"Respiratory Etiquette" (bookmarkers)

"Cover Your Cough" (general public)

"Cover Your Cough" (medical facilities)

"Disaster Planning" (Brochure)

Where Can I Get More Information Online?

Please see our "Quick Info Links" below for valid external websites with "up to the date" information on Avian and Pandemic Influenza State and worldwide.

What are Local Authorities Doing to Prepare?

The Clinton County Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (*NBC) Public Health Workgroup held an Influenza Pandemic Summit on June 20, 2006. See the Press Republican Newspaper Article.

* The NBC group formed October 17, 2001 as part of a coordinated local response to the national events that occurred on September 11, 2001 and the anthrax outbreak in October, 2001.

Meetings focus on public health planning for nuclear, biological and chemical events; 21 regular meetings and over 31 trainings and outreach activities were held in 2005.

The Summit objectives where:

- Provide information about flu pandemic and potential impact on our community.
- Identify resources and information to assist in planning personally and within the worksite.
- Engage in dialog and discussion with Clinton County preparedness and community leaders.
- Involve community leaders in preparing our community and each individual worksite for the next flu pandemic.

Who was invited to the Summit?

Business Leaders	Media
School/College Officials	Community Organizations
Health Care Providers	Law Enforcement
Elected Officials	Day Care Providers
Faith Community Leaders	Other Concerned Leaders

Summit Downloads - Pandemic Influenza Planning:

Individuals and Families
Businesses
Hospital/Medical Offices/Clinics
Child Care/Preschool
School Districts/Colleges/Universities

Summit Downloads - MS PowerPoint Presentations:

Influenza 101 (Paula Calkins Lacombe, CCHD)
Health Care Impact & Preparation (Edmund Lydon, CVPH)
Government Impact & Preparation (Rodney Brown, CC Legislature)
Business and Economic Impact & Preparation (Bonnie Black, EAS)
Personal Impact & Preparation (Russell Hartung, CVPH)

(Note: If you do not have Microsoft PowerPoint on your computer, you can download the FREE PowerPoint Viewer from Microsoft here, to view the presentations.)