

Preparing For Pandemic Influenza: What the CDC and HHS Recommend You Can Do

Based on current data and information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Department Health and Human Services (HHS), there is a potential for national and international flu pandemic*. The information provided is designed to facilitate implementation and actions designed to control the spread of communicable diseases.

*A pandemic can potentially be a prolonged and widespread outbreak that could require temporary changes in many areas of society, such as schools, work, transportation and other public services. An informed and prepared public can take appropriate actions to decrease their risk during a pandemic.

U.S. CDC

It is recommended by the CDC and HHS that communities, businesses and individuals:

- Develop preparedness plans as you would for other public health emergencies.
- Participate and promote public health efforts in your state and community.
- Talk with your local public health officials and health care providers; they can supply information about the signs and symptoms of a specific disease outbreak.
- Implement prevention and control actions recommended by your public health officials and providers.
- Adopt practices that encourage sick employees/students to stay home.
- Anticipate how to function with a significant portion of the workforce/school population absent due to illness or caring for ill family members.
- Stay informed about pandemic influenza and be prepared to respond.
 - Consult <http://www.flu.gov/> frequently for updates on national and international information on pandemic influenza.
 - Use national and local pandemic hotlines that will be established in the eventuality of a global influenza outbreak.
 - Listen to radio and television and read media stories about pandemic flu.

Suggested State and Local Governments Planning

- All states and localities should be prepared to coordinate the pandemic influenza response within and between their jurisdictions. State and local responsibilities include:
- Enhancing disease surveillance to ensure early detection of the first cases of pandemic influenza in their jurisdictions as recommended by the CDC.
- Distributing public stocks of antiviral drugs and vaccines and providing local physicians and hospital administrators with updated guidance on clinical management and infection control as the situation unfolds.
- Preventing local disease transmission using a range of containment strategies as recommended by the U.S. Federal Government.
- Providing ongoing communication with the public about the response effort, including the purpose and duration of containment measures. Utilize the Crisis Communication Booklet from the CDC as a starting point in the process. **(This can be accessed at the Trident Web site.)**

- Providing psychological and social support services to emergency field workers and other responders as recommended by HHS and the CDC. This has proven essential in crisis situations as a support mechanism for our first responders.

Healthcare Facility Responsibilities

- Develop planning and decision-making structures for responding to pandemic influenza.
- Develop written plans that address: disease surveillance, hospital communications, education and training, triage and clinical evaluation, facility access, occupational health, use and administration of vaccines and antiviral drugs, surge capacity, supply chain and access to critical inventory needs, and mortuary issues.
- Participate in pandemic influenza response exercises and drills, and incorporate lessons learned into response plans.

The above information is courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S Department of Human Services. Please contact your local city, county, and state agencies as well as the listed federal organizations to initiate controls, locate additional resources and take the steps necessary to include this process in your emergency catastrophe plan.

This and other information can be accessed at:

- Flu.gov
<http://www.flu.gov/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov>

For More Information

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Hotline (1-800-CDC-INFO) is available in English and Spanish, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Community Preparedness Leadership and Networking Pandemic Checklist

This checklist was designed by the U.S Federal Health and Human Services Department for the Community Preparedness Leadership Conference. This check list is a good starting point for the development of a local program for detection and response.

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Pandemic Preparedness Coordinating Committee that represents all relevant stakeholders in the jurisdiction (including governmental, public health, healthcare, emergency response, agriculture, education, business, communication, community based, and faith-based sectors, as well as private citizens) and that is accountable for articulating strategic priorities and overseeing the development and execution of the jurisdiction's operational pandemic plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delineate accountability and responsibility, capabilities, and resources for key stakeholders engaged in planning and executing specific components of the operational plan. Assure that the plan includes timelines, deliverables, and performance measures. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within every state, clarify which activities will be performed at a state, local, or coordinated level, and indicate what role the state will have in providing guidance and assistance. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure that the operational plan for pandemic influenza response is an integral element of the overall state and local emergency response plan established under Federal Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF8): Health and medical service and compliant with National Incident Management System. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address integration of state, local, tribal, territorial, and regional plans across jurisdictional boundaries in the plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalize agreements with neighboring jurisdictions and address communication, mutual aid, and other cross-jurisdictional needs. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure existence of a demographic profile of the community (including special needs populations and language minorities) and ensure that the needs of these populations are addressed in the operation plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address provision of psychosocial support services for the community, including patients and their families, and those affected by community containment procedures in the plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test the communication operational plan that addresses the needs of targeted public, private sector, governmental, public health, medical, and emergency response audiences; identifies priority channels of communication; delineates the network of communication personnel, including lead spokespersons and persons trained in emergency risk communication; and links to other communication networks (see Supplement 10). 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify for all stakeholders the legal authorities responsible for executing the operational plan, especially those authorities responsible for case identification, isolation, quarantine, movement restriction, healthcare services, emergency care, and mutual aid. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make clear to all stakeholders the process for requesting, coordinating, and approving requests for resources to state and federal agencies. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an Incident Command System for the pandemic plan based on the National Incident Management System and exercise this system along with other operational elements of the plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in establishing and promoting community-based task forces that support healthcare institutions on a local or regional basis. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the authority responsible for declaring a public health emergency at the state and local levels and for officially activating the pandemic influenza response plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the state and local law enforcement personnel who will maintain public order and help implement control measures. Determine in advance what will constitute a "law enforcement" emergency and educate law enforcement officials so that they can pre-plan for their families and sustain themselves during the emergency. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the plans are scalable, to the magnitude and severity of the pandemic and available resources. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Revise as necessary.

Surveillance [HHS Supplement 1. Preparedness Goal 3-Decrease the time needed to detect and report chemical, biological, or radiological agents in tissue, food, or environmental agents that cause threats to the public's health. Preparedness Goal 5-Decrease the time to identify causes, risk factors, and appropriate interventions for those affected by threats to the public's health.]

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct year-round traditional surveillance for seasonal influenza (e.g., virologic, outpatient visits, hospitalization, and mortality data), including electronic reporting. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve capacity for rapid identification of unusual influenza strains by working with federal partners to enhance laboratory-based monitoring of seasonal influenza subtypes, as described in Supplement 1 (Surveillance). 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and be prepared to implement enhanced surveillance once a pandemic is detected to ensure recognition of the first cases of pandemic virus infection in time to initiate appropriate containment protocols, and exercise regularly. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link and routinely share influenza data from animal and human health surveillance systems. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain and track information daily during a pandemic (coordinating with epidemiologic and medical personnel) on the numbers and location of newly hospitalized cases, newly quarantined persons, and hospitals with pandemic influenza cases. Use these reports to determine priorities among community outreach and education efforts. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public Health and Clinical Laboratories [HHS Supplement 2. Preparedness Goal 3-Decrease the time needed to detect and report chemical, biological, and radiological agents in tissue, food, or environmental agents that cause threats to the public's health.]

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institute surveillance for influenza-like illnesses (ILI) among laboratory personnel working with novel 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

influenza viruses.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and test a plan for surge capacity of public health and clinical laboratories to meet the needs of the jurisdiction during a pandemic. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess regularly the influenza diagnostic testing proficiency and adherence to biosafety containment and biomonitoring protocols. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform frontline clinicians and laboratory personnel of protocols for safe specimen collection and testing, how and to whom a potential case of novel influenza should be reported, and the indications and mechanism for submitting specimens to referral laboratories (see Supplements 3, 4, 5). 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Healthcare and Public Health Partners [HHS Supplement 3. Preparedness Goal 6-Decrease the time needed to provide countermeasures and health guidance to those affected by threats to the public's health.]

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test the operational plan for the healthcare sector (as part of the overall plan) that addresses safe and effective 1) healthcare of persons with influenza during a pandemic, 2) the legal issues that can affect staffing and patient care, 3) continuity of services for other patients, 4) protection of the healthcare workforce, and 5) medical supply contingency plans. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all components of the healthcare delivery network (e.g., hospitals, long-term care, home care, emergency care) are included in the operational plan and that the special needs of vulnerable and hard-to-reach patients are addressed. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that plan provides for real-time situational awareness of patient visits, hospital bed and intensive care needs, medical supply needs, and medical staffing needs during a pandemic. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test the operational plan for surge capacity of healthcare services, workforce, and supplies to meet the needs of the jurisdiction during a pandemic. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test the plan provisions for mortuary services during a pandemic. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a current roster of all active and formerly active healthcare personnel available for emergency healthcare services. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine what constitutes a medical staffing emergency and exercise the operational plan to obtain appropriate credentials of volunteer healthcare personnel (including in-state, out-of-state, international, returning retired and non-medical volunteers) to meet staffing needs during a pandemic. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure healthcare facilities in the jurisdiction have tested a plan for isolating and cohorting patients with known or suspected influenza, for training clinicians, and for supporting the needs for personal protective equipment. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the healthcare facilities in the jurisdiction have tested an operational plan to initiate, support, and implement quarantine of potentially exposed healthcare personnel (see 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Infection Control and Clinical Guidelines [HHS Supplements 4 and 5. Preparedness Goal 6- Decrease the time needed to provide countermeasures and health guidance to those affected by threats to the public's health.

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the Health Alert Network in the jurisdiction reaches at least 80% of all practicing, licensed, frontline healthcare personnel and links via the communication network to other pandemic responders (see Supplements 3, 10). 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craft messages to help educate healthcare providers about novel and pandemic influenza, and infection control and clinical guidelines, and the public about personal preparedness methods. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and test a plan (as part of the communication plan) to regularly update providers as the influenza pandemic unfolds. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure appropriate local health authorities have access to EPI-X and are trained in its use. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Vaccine Distribution and Use [HHS Supplement 6. Preparedness Goal 6-Decrease the time needed to provide countermeasures and health guidance to those affected by threats to the public's health.]

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with healthcare partners and other stakeholders to develop state-based plans for vaccine distribution, use, and monitoring; and for communication of vaccine status. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise an operational plan that addresses the procurement, storage, security, distribution, and monitoring actions necessary (including vaccine safety) to ensure access to this product during a pandemic. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the operational plan delineates procedures for tracking the number and priority of vaccine recipients, where and by whom vaccinations will be given, a distribution plan for ensuring that vaccine and necessary equipment and supplies are available at all points of distribution in the community, the security and logistical support for the points of distribution, and the training requirements for involved personnel. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address vaccine security issues, cold chain requirements, transport and storage issues, and biohazardous waste issues in the operational plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the needs of vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations in the operational plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document with written agreements the commitments of participating personnel and organizations in the vaccination operational plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform citizens in advance about where they will be vaccinated. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Antiviral Drug Distribution and Use [HHS Supplement 7. Preparedness Goal 6-Decrease the time needed to provide countermeasures and health guidance to those affected by threats to the public's health.]

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop state-based plans for distribution and use of antiviral drugs during a pandemic via the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), as appropriate, to healthcare facilities that will administer them to priority groups. Establish methods for monitoring and investigating adverse events. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test the operational plan that addresses the procurement, storage, security, distribution, and monitoring actions necessary to assure access to these treatments during a pandemic. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the jurisdiction has a contingency plan if unlicensed antiviral drugs administered under Investigational New Drug or Emergency Use Authorization provisions are needed. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Community Disease Control and Prevention (including managing travel-related risk of disease transmission) [HHS Supplements 8 and 9. Preparedness Goal 6-Decrease the time needed to provide countermeasures and health guidance to those affected by threats to the public's health.]

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise the jurisdiction's operational plan to investigate and contain potential cases or local outbreaks of influenza potentially caused by a novel or pandemic strain. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise the jurisdiction's containment operational plan that delineates procedures for isolation and quarantine, the procedures and legal authorities for implementing and enforcing these containment measures (such as school closures, canceling public transportation, and other movement restrictions within, to, and from the jurisdiction) and the methods that will be used to support, service, and monitor those affected by these containment measures in healthcare facilities, other residential facilities, homes, community facilities, and other settings. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the jurisdiction has exercised the operational plan to implement various levels of movement restrictions within, to, and from the jurisdiction. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform citizens in advance about what containment procedures may be used in the community. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public Health Communications [HHS Supplement 10. Preparedness Goal 4-Improve the timeliness and accuracy of communications regarding threats to the public's health.]

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess readiness to meet communications needs in preparation for an influenza pandemic, including regular review, exercise, and update of communications plans. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and coordinate emergency communication activities with private industry, education, and non-profit partners (e.g., local Red Cross chapters). 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and train lead subject-specific spokespersons. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide public health communications staff with training on risk communications for use during an influenza pandemic. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain up-to-date communications contacts of key stakeholders and exercise the plan to provide regular updates as the influenza pandemic unfolds. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement and maintain, as appropriate, community resources, such as hotlines and Web site, to respond to local questions from the public and professional groups. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the provision of redundant communication systems/channels that allow for the expedited transmission and receipt of information. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Workforce Support: Psychosocial Considerations and Information Needs [HHS Supplement 11. Preparedness Goal 6-Decrease the time needed to provide countermeasures and health guidance to those affected by threats to the public's health.]

Tasks	Not Started	In Progress	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a continuity of operations plan for essential health department services, including contingency planning for increasing the public health workforce in response to absenteeism among health department staff and stakeholder groups that have key responsibilities under a community's response plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure availability of psychosocial support services (including educational and training materials) for employees who participate in or provide support for the response to public health emergencies such as influenza pandemics. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop workforce resilience programs and ensure readiness to deploy to maximize responders' performance and personal resilience during a public health emergency. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure the development of public health messages has included the expertise of behavioral health experts (see S 			