Pandemic Influenza: Considerations for Business Continuity Planning

Maine Telecommunications Users Group (MTUG)
VTEC, South Portland, ME
10 October 2006

Steven J. Trockman, MPH
Joshua C. Frances, NREMT-I
BIRD FLU
PANDEMIC
PREPARATION
Objectives

1. Recognize the differences between seasonal and pandemic influenza
2. Describe planning efforts worldwide, in the U.S., and in Maine to prepare for a possible influenza pandemic
3. Understand implications of pandemic influenza in Maine and on businesses
4. Define strategies and planning tools for business continuity
Emergency hospital during influenza epidemic, Camp Funston, Kansas, 1918
(Nat’l Museum of Health & Medicine)
Approximate beginning of the epidemic, 1918

Source: America’s Forgotten Pandemic - The Influenza of 1918 - 1989
Avian influenza, China & Southeast Asia, 2005 (National Geographic Society)
What is the flu?

- Virus
- 15 different H proteins
- 1 of 9 N proteins
- Injects into cells and reproduces
- Results in illness

Symptoms:
Abrupt onset fever, cough, fatigue, body ache
Seasonal Flu
Every year...
- A flu virus infects people around the world
- Killing ~36,000 people in the U.S.
- Killing ~250,000-500,000 people worldwide.

Pandemic Flu
Occasionally, a new virus appears that does not follow the normal seasonal cycle, or follow many of the same “rules.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasonal Flu</th>
<th>Pandemic Flu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occurs every year</td>
<td>Occurs infrequently; three times in the past century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occurs during winter; in the U.S. flu season typically begins in December and ends in March</td>
<td>Occurs at any time of year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most people recover within 1-2 weeks without requiring medical treatment</td>
<td>Some people will not recover even with medical treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The very young, the very old, and chronically ill (very sick) are at highest risk of serious illness</td>
<td>People of every age may be at risk of serious illness, including previously healthy adults</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

October 4, 2006 -- S. Trockman & J. Frances
A pandemic is an outbreak (epidemic) of a disease that covers a wide geographic area and affects large numbers of people.

Because there is little natural immunity, pandemic flu can spread easily from person to person.

Currently, there is no pandemic flu.
What will happen if a flu pandemic occurs in the U.S.?

A flu pandemic would spread across the U.S. within weeks and could cause:

- Disease in large numbers (up to 25% of population)
- Potential deaths in all age groups
- Significant pressure and disruption to all aspects of daily life, and to the entire health care system and business community
- Possible emergency measures (quarantine & isolation) that will affect the entire nation
Status of H5N1 Avian Influenza worldwide
Areas reporting confirmed H5N1 since 2003

- Spreading rapidly through wild bird population
- High mortality rate among birds and humans
- Feces of infected birds highly infectious for weeks
International, National, and Statewide Planning for Pandemic Influenza


**Worldwide pan flu preparedness efforts**

- **WHO / CDC**
  - Coordinating the overall international response
  - Surveillance systems (tracking since 1996)
    - Early warning
    - Advanced planning
  - Stockpiled medications
  - Vaccine capability possible capacity
  - Minimal excess capacity in health care system
U.S. pan flu preparedness efforts

- Funding
- Existing stockpiles
  - Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
- Stockpiles under consideration
- Enhanced vaccine production capacity
- Travel and border control
- Vaccination
U.S. pan flu preparedness efforts

• Goals
  – Stop, slow, or limit spread to U.S.
  – Limit domestic spread to mitigate disease

• National Strategy (3 pillars)
  1. Preparedness and communication
  2. Surveillance and detection
  3. Response and containment

For more information . . .

National Pandemic Influenza Plan

www.pandemicflu.gov
Understanding Flu Terms

- Seasonal flu, avian flu, and pandemic flu are not the same.

**News**

- **Sept 29** — Illinois Wild Bird Samples Undergo Additional Avian Influenza Testing [More >>]
- **Sept 28** — FDA Issues Guidance to Industry for Development of Cell-Based Viral Vaccines [More >>]
- **Sept 28** — CDC Influenza Expert Selected as Federal Employee of the Year [More >>]
- **Sept 27** — Mouse Study Reveals New Clues about Virulence of 1918 Influenza Virus [More >>]

**News Archive >>**

- RSS [News Releases]
- RSS [Site Updates]
- Help with RSS

**Nations With Confirmed Cases**

H5N1 Avian Influenza (July 7)

Click on map for larger image

**Resources**

- Planning Checklists (En Español)
- Planning Tools
- Risk Communication
- National Strategy
- HHS Pandemic Plan

**WHO Pandemic Alert Phase**

- Phase 3: No or very limited human-to-human transmission

**Avian Flu Watch**

- Human Cases (WHO)
- Animal Infection (OIE)
- Situation Update (WHO)
- Indonesia Situation (WHO)
Maine pan flu preparedness efforts

- Focus Areas
  - Emergency Management
  - Medical Response
  - Community Coordination

- Structure
  - Operations and Management
  - Surveillance
  - Healthcare and Patient Management
  - Mass Casualty Management
  - Mass Dispensing
  - Community Support
  - Communication

- Maine Pandemic Influenza Plan & other information
Welcome to Maine's flu Web site.

This interagency site is designed to provide a single source for all information related to avian, pandemic, and seasonal influenza.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Avian (or bird) flu is caused by flu viruses found among birds. The H5N1 virus currently circulating is deadly to wild and domestic fowl and can be transmitted from birds to humans.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Pandemic flu is influenza that causes a global outbreak, or pandemic, of serious illness. The disease can spread easily from person to person and can occur at any time during the year.

SEASONAL INFLUENZA

Seasonal (or common) flu is a respiratory illness that can be transmitted person to person. Seasonal influenza occurs most often in winter and, in Maine, usually peaks between December and March.
Our mission
To protect the health and lives of people in Maine by strengthening the ability of health agencies and partner organizations in Southern Maine to detect, contain and manage public health threats and emergencies.

SMRRC Links
- News
- Meetings
- Training
- Grants
- Resources
- Images
- Contact

Regional Emergency Information
Regional contacts (updating, to be re-posted soon)
Equipment
Maps
Regional quick links

SMRRC information

ISO-Pods delivered at St Andrews Hospital
Marissa, Cindy and Megan with the Iso-Pod (used to isolate contagious patients).

Training DVD’s are ready!

Regional schools are being evaluated as possible alternate medical care sites for Emergencies. (image by Amanda) Alternate Medical Site Evaluation Project: The Southern Maine Regional Resource Center (SMRRC) is beginning an assessment of potential alternate medical care sites throughout the Southern Maine region. We will utilize the Rocky Mountain Regional Care Model site selection tool, developed by Denver Health as part of an AHRQ grant, which provides a simple method for identifying and rating existing structures (schools, churches, community centers, etc.) for use as an off-site medical care facility.

SMRRC staff, along with partners from the region’s hospitals, will be making site visits and assessments throughout the summer. Once the initial surveys are complete, we will reconvene our working group to further refine the site assessment information, and begin discussions with regional partners to incorporate these sites into ongoing planning efforts. If you would like more information, or to volunteer for a survey team, please contact Amanda Walker at 662-5141 or walkea2@mmrc.org

Headlines

E. Coli O157:H7 Outbreak update (September 26th)

Emergency Medical Operations & planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction Course offered twice: October 16, 18: National Semiconductor Corp. in S. Portland; October 19-21 at Naval Air Station Brunswick, info...

Governor launches LifeFlight trauma training program, full story...

2006 JCAHO Hospital Accreditation Standards for Emergency Management and Infection Control, full story...

Steve Trockman York County Flu Presentation 8/8/06
Influenza and Pandemic Flu

1. CDC influenza information site
2. Maine State Flu Site
3. Maine Plan for Pandemic Influenza
4. Maine Influenza Surveillance Report updated weekly
5. National weekly Flu Report (CDC)
6. Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Software for Hospital Planning
7. The U.S. government site for pandemic flu and avian influenza
8. USDA avian influenza site
9. OSHA and avian influenza
10. World Health Organization (WHO) information on flu
11. Industry website on avian influenza
12. Bird Flu: what you can do to protect yourself and your family
13. Bird Flu and you, quick guide
14. U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Pandemic Influenza
15. What Businesses Need to Know About Pandemic Flu Planning
16. Business Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist
17. HHS Business Pandemic Influenza Planning
18. American Hospital Association Flu Planning
19. Pandemic Flu Planning by town in Maine
20. Influenza Prevention and Treatment (MMWR)
21. Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
22. Pandemic Flu: Guide for Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources
24. Interim Recommendations for Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities Caring for Patients with Known or Suspected Avian Influenza

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Creating Preparedness

• Planning - simultaneous (“in parallel”)
  – “Top down” (planners)
  – “Bottom up” (responders)

• Coordination of plans
  – To “meet in the middle”
  – To tie paper plans to real resources and capacities

• Enter . . . Maine’s Regional Resource Centers
Challenges Facing Private Sector Employers

- Access to current, accurate and appropriate information
- Maintaining essential services
- Managing shortages
- Protecting staff and visitors
- Managing and supporting ill staff
Private Sector Response

• Plan now
  – Plan for both response and recovery
• Phase implementation of plans
  – Short, medium, long term
  – WHO pandemic phases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inter-pandemic phase</th>
<th>Low risk of human cases</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New virus in animals, no human cases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandemic alert</td>
<td>Higher risk of human cases</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New virus causes human cases</td>
<td>No or very limited human-to-human transmission</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandemic</td>
<td>Evidence of increased human-to-human transmission</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evidence of significant human-to-human transmission</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Efficient and sustained human-to-human transmission</td>
<td>6</td>
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Access to Information

• Businesses should identify credible sources of information regarding the state of the potential pandemic

• May require local experts to filter / translate medical or jargon-laden text

• Consider an “Influenza Manager” to manage incoming information and status of business response
Managing Essential Services

- Identify essential operations and services
  - Identify critical supplies, suppliers
  - Identify transportation vulnerabilities

- Identify essential personnel/positions
  - Cross-train for key positions
Managing Essential Services

• Facilitate social distancing as much as possible at work
  - Work from home
  - Limit meetings
  - Limits on other public spaces (i.e. cafeterias, etc)
  - Increase personal space
  - Alter social customs (i.e. cough etiquette, handshakes, etc.)

• Consider preplanned triggers for closure of workplace
Managing Shortages

• Just-in-time economy has altered economic impact of a potential pandemic
• Demand for products may be altered
  – Some needs decreased, some increased
• Transportation systems may be severely affected
• Plan for staffing shortfalls
  – Consider retirees, “volunteers,” temporary hiring, etc.
Protection of Staff and Visitors

- Minimize risks to workers and customers
- Ensure adequate supplies of hygiene products
  - Hand sanitizer/sinks
  - Tissues
  - Cleaning supplies
  - Masks controversial
- Support annual influenza vaccination campaigns
Protection of Staff

- Communicate frequently with workforce
  - Consider additional lines of communication with workers
  - Monitor rumors, openly discuss risks
  - Emphasize planning that has already occurred and is ongoing
  - Help employees anticipate next steps
- Identify staff at greatest risk
  - Close workspaces (consider HVAC analysis)
  - Physically or medically vulnerable
  - Economically vulnerable
Protection of Staff

- International travel
  - Monitor affected regions of the world
  - Consider delay return to work after travel (with appropriate potential exposure) to an affected area
  - Consider limiting travel
  - Consider complexities of significant portions of overseas personnel infected
    - Local healthcare
    - Family support
    - Repatriation
    - Reimbursement
• Maintain / strengthen workplace cleaning

• Consider assistance to workers with home stockpiles of food, water, medicine
  - Size of personal stockpile controversial
  - Difficulties with recommendation to stockpile medications
  - www.ready.gov
Managing and Supporting Ill Staff

• Encourage staying home from work when ill
• Set-up a system to monitor staff for illness
  - Provide for masks/isolation when illness is suspected
  - Know where to refer ill workers
  - Work with local healthcare to facilitate access for employees
  - Monitor surge changes in the health care system
  - Be able to trace contacts
• Must have policies for return to work
• Planning for a pandemic is essential
  – Share your plan with others
  – Exercise your plan regularly
• Simple public health interventions may decrease impact on your business
• Anticipating supply and workforce shortages may also mitigate their impact
• Accurate, sensitive and timely
• communication with workforce will be even more important in a pandemic
“In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.”


“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

- Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)
www.SMRRC.org

207-662-5142
FRANCJ2@mmc.org

Steven J Trockman, MPH, Director
Joshua C Frances, NREMT-I, Project Manager