

Preparedness Brief

Edition 42 - February 2009

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Program Update

Pandemic Flu Preparedness

NACCHO has been preparing for the pandemic influenza through the continuing efforts of the Pandemic Influenza Work Group, and a project for

Editorials

NACCHO Preparedness Brief 2.0

Megan Skupien, Editorial Associate

Costanza Galastri, Senior Analyst

Janusz Wasiolek, Program Associate

The NACCHO Preparedness Brief has been changed to reflect trends in scholarly journals and to keep local health departments up-to-date on NACCHO's activities, regarding public health preparedness. NACCHO's monthly e-newsletter, Preparedness Brief, has recently undergone several revisions to improve the quality and relevancy of information that is provided in each issue. The goal is to make the Preparedness Brief not just a module of news from mass media sources, but a comprehensive review of scholarly literature and professional research, in the field of public health preparedness.

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NACCHO's Role in Pandemic Flu Planning

Justine Uhlenbrock, Program Associate

NACCHO currently manages two central tasks related to pandemic influenza preparedness—a work group and a project for health marketing, communication, and partnerships. The mission of the pandemic influenza work group is to assess gaps in

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health marketing, communication, and partnerships.

NACCHO is working to see

that LHDs and their

communities are prepared for

a pandemic influenza and

mass fatality management.

Through these efforts,

NACCHO is working to asses

any gaps that may occur in

local preparedness planning

efforts. In addition, the Work

Group is developing

recommendations and policy

guidance to local, state,

federal, and private partners.

local preparedness planning efforts, develop recommendations for the use of existing and new resources, coordinate pandemic influenza preparedness tasks with other work groups, and provide policy guidance.

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Stories from the Field

Ohio Mass Fatality Public Engagement Project

Cheryl Kehnast, Communicable Disease Coordinator

Defiance County General Health District, Defiance, OH

For the last three to five years, public health departments have spent a considerable amount of time and energy, into creating pandemic influenza plans. Public health education campaigns were launched to heighten awareness and preparedness for the next pandemic. A crucial component of the pandemic preparedness planning is the issue of dealing with large numbers of cadavers in a humane, dignified, and respectful manner.

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News, Reports, and Journal Articles

Principles and Practices of Legal Triage during Public Health Emergencies

James G. Hodge, Jr., J.D., L.L.M. and

Evan D. Anderson, J.D.

Don't miss the 2009

Integrated Medical, Public

Health, Preparedness and

Response Training Summit on

::

April 4-8th in Dallas, Texas.

NYU Annual Survey of American Law

Volume 64, Issue 2

More information is available

at <http://www.>

[hhstrainingsummit.org/](http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org/)

Assessing the legal environment in declared states of emergency that impact the public's health is a complicated and difficult task. Multiple types of laws, including constitutional provisions, statutes, regulations, executive orders, judicial cases, and compacts, must be interpreted and applied in real time during emergencies.

NACCHO's Preparedness Brief

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is a monthly e-publication. For

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information or to submit an

article or editorial please email

us at phpreparedness@naccho.

[org](#) .

Simulating Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plans for a Public University: A Hierarchical System Dynamics Approach

Decision Theater, Arizona State University, Tempe

Simulation Conference, Winter 2008

Preparedness Brief Editors:

Megan Skupien, Lead Editor

Costanza Galastri, Editor

Janusz Wasiolek, Editor

Zarnaaz Bashir, Editor-in-Chief

Pandemic influenza preparedness plans strongly focus on efficient mitigation strategies including social distancing, logistics and medical response. These strategies are formed by multiple decisions-makers before pandemic outbreak and during the disaster by decision makers in local communities, states and nationwide. Depending on the community that will be affected by pandemic influenza, different strategies should be employed to decrease the severity of the disaster in multiple dimensions of social life.

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Mitigation Strategies for Pandemic Influenza in the United States

Timothy C. Germann, Kai Kadau, Ira M. Longini, Jr., and Catherine A. Macken

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, February 2006

Recent human deaths due to infection by highly pathogenic (H5N1) avian influenza A virus have raised the specter of a devastating pandemic like that of 1917–1918, should this avian virus evolve to become readily transmissible among humans. We introduce and use a large-scale stochastic simulation model to investigate the spread of a pandemic strain of influenza virus through the U.S. population of 281 million individuals.

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Resources and Tools

NACCHO's LHD Guide to Pandemic Influenza Planning

NACCHO

At the core of this guide are plans developed by departments that host two of NACCHO's Advanced Practice Centers, cutting-edge learning laboratories that develop and test tools that help other LHDs tackle all-hazards preparedness. Santa Clara County, California and Seattle-King County, Washington, have both produced notably comprehensive, but very different, plans addressing pandemic influenza that serve as the foundation of this document's findings.

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PandemicFlu.gov

US Dept. of Health and Human Services

One-stop access to U.S. Government avian and pandemic flu information—managed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

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National Public Health Information Coalition Pandemic Influenza Resource Library

National Center of Health Marketing

The National Center of Health Marketing funded the National Public Health Information Coalition Pandemic Influenza Resource Library, which contains pandemic influenza communication materials from various state and local health departments.

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Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program

DHS and FEMA

The Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) toolkit includes supporting elements such as facilitation guidelines, controller and evaluator instructions, logistical checklists, and planning timelines. Please note that a login is required to access many of the HSEEP Toolkit Resources.

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Lessons Learned and Information Sharing

DHS and FEMA

Lessons Learned Information Sharing is the national network of Lessons Learned and Best Practices for emergency response providers and homeland security officials. LLIS.gov's secure, restricted-access information is designed to facilitate efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to acts of terrorism and other incidents across all disciplines and communities throughout the U.S. Please note that a login is required to access many of the LLIS resources.

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Promising Practices - Pandemic Preparedness Tools

University of Minnesota

This project aims to enhance public health preparedness for an influenza pandemic and conserve resources by sharing promising practices. CIDRAP and the Pew Center on the States (PCS) launched this initiative to collect and peer-review practices that can be adapted or adopted by public health stakeholders.

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Upcoming Preparedness Events and Trainings

Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit

U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP)

The Training Summit will enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of participants, which in turn will improve their competency to deliver public health and medical care services during disasters of any origin. Expert faculty will present on key topics such as clinical care, leadership skills, volunteer management practices, and response team issues.

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NACCHO Annual

Start making plans now to attend the NACCHO Annual 2009 Conference, set for July 29 – 31, in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort.

Under the timely and action-oriented theme, The New Public Health – Working Across Sectors to Leverage Investment in Communities, NACCHO will be hosting the year’s largest gathering of local public health officials in the United States!

NACCHO’s Annual Conference is frequently cited as one of the most valuable opportunities in the field for local public health practitioners to come together and discuss the critical issues of the moment and to plan for the future. In 2009, NACCHO will offer exciting learning and networking opportunities geared toward the unique needs of local public health professionals.

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