

Specific Incident – May not require immediate action

South Dakota Department of Health

The 24/7 contact number for the South Dakota Department of Health is: 1-800-592-1861

Current and past Alerts/Updates/Information can be viewed at:

<http://www.state.sd.us/doh/Alerts/>

To receive future Alerts/Updates/Information send your e-mail address to:

james.holmes@state.sd.us

Web-based disease reporting is available at

<https://www.state.sd.us/doh/diseasereport>

To: Partners, health care providers, health care associations, first responders, emergency managers

From: Doneen B. Hollingsworth, Secretary of Health
Tom Dravland, Secretary of Public Safety

Date: November 10, 2005

Subject: South Dakota Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

With the release of the Federal Pandemic Influenza Plan on November 2, 2005 now is the time for the State to update and refine the earlier draft South Dakota Pandemic Influenza Plan. The Department of Health with the assistance of the Department of Public Safety, has been working on many aspects of a response in anticipation of a specific state planning template that will be released in early December 2005 by the federal government.

The State has been proactive in preparation and planning and is currently working on the following items:

- Making adjustments to the State Plan to align with the Federal Plan
- Increasing influenza surveillance
- Augmenting laboratory testing of the H5 influenza virus
- Exercising mass vaccine clinic plans

- Working with public and private partners to provide consistent messaging related to pandemic influenza
- Acquiring a stockpile of antiviral medications
- Distributing influenza clinical guidance to health care providers
- Convening a state government taskforce which includes the Governor's Office; Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Department of Agriculture; Animal Industry Board; Game, Fish and Parks; Department of Environment and Natural Resources; National Guard; and Department of Public Safety
- Creating a public education campaign that will kick off after the release of a federal planning template. The campaign will include what the public, employers, and communities, can do
- Conducting a State Forum on Pandemic Influenza in early 2006
- Submitting the final State Plan to the federal Department of Health and Human Services according to federal timelines
- Exercising the approved State Plan in 2006
- Communicating plans to and involving local police, sheriffs, fire departments, ambulance service, county emergency managers, and county, city and tribal officials
- Identifying and staffing incident command structure according to State Emergency Operations Plan
- Ongoing efforts such as state-based, regional medical, and community-based planning

The following links will be important to you. The first is a link to our draft [State Plan](#) and the second will link you with the [Federal Pandemic Influenza Plan](#). In anticipation of the State Forum in early 2006, you should take time to familiarize yourself with the sections of the Federal and State Plan that are relevant to your organization. We look forward to working with you in the ongoing development of this plan and in future exercises.

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Clayton with the Department of Health at 605-773-6195, or Shelley Roemmich with the Department of Public Safety at 605-773-3231.