

## Local Health Department Roles by Pandemic Phase

### Interpandemic Phases 1 and 2

- Consider participation in the Sentinel Provider Network (SPN) to conduct disease-based surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI)
- Consider recruiting healthcare providers in your county to participate in the SPN
- Investigate and report cases of pediatric mortality associated with influenza
- Investigate clusters of ILI
  - Outside of the regular influenza season
  - In nursing homes and healthcare facilities
- Develop strategies to increase uptake of seasonal influenza vaccine among all of your county's residents as well as specific groups:
  - High-risk individuals as described in the annual ACIP recommendations
  - Contacts of high-risk individuals
  - Healthcare workers (HCWs)
    - Particular emphasis should be placed on improving rates among HCWs because of their potential role in transmitting influenza virus to patients. Less than 40% of HCWs receive seasonal influenza vaccine each year.
    - Selected resources addressing strategies to improve HCW influenza vaccination rates
      - the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) publication on improving influenza vaccination rates among HCWs, available at <http://www.nfid.org/pdf/publications/calltoaction.pdf>
      - the Association of Practitioners in Infection Control (APIC) toolkit for improving influenza vaccination rates among HCWs, available at <http://66.11.193.197/Content.html#Anchor-APIC-23240>
      - North Carolina Medical Journal article (November / December 2004) focusing on institutional strategies for improving rates of HCW influenza vaccination available at <http://www.ncmedicaljournal.com/nov-dec-04/ar041101.pdf>
- Develop strategies to increase pneumococcal vaccination rates among the elderly and high-risk residents
- Consider performing a mass vaccination exercise using seasonal influenza vaccine

### Pandemic Alert Phase 3

- Educate health department staff about avian and pandemic influenza
- Educate healthcare providers about avian and pandemic influenza
- Investigate any cases of ILI with the following criteria:
  - ILI outside of regular influenza season
  - Recent travel to an area where novel or avian influenza has been documented

- Severe morbidity or mortality associated with ILI
- Consider performing a mass vaccination exercise using influenza vaccine
- Estimate number of people in priority groups for pandemic influenza vaccine and antiviral administration (see Appendices C-1, C-2, and D-1)
- Review and modify guidelines for mass vaccination clinic
- Review SNS distribution plan
- Coordinate with local EM personnel to
  - identify sites for mass vaccination clinics
  - identify sites which could be used for alternate care facilities
  - identify sites which could be used for temporary morgues

#### **Pandemic Alert Phase 4**

- Update health department staff about avian and pandemic influenza
- Update healthcare providers about avian and pandemic influenza
- Investigate any cases of ILI with the following criteria:
  - ILI outside of regular influenza season
  - Recent travel to an area where novel or avian influenza has been documented
  - Severe morbidity or mortality associated with ILI
- Facilitate viral testing (through SLPH) of any persons who present with ILI and have epidemiological risk factors for novel or avian influenza (Appendix B-1)
- Submit forms to the Immunization branch of the NC Division of Public Health with estimates for priority groups to receive pandemic influenza vaccine (Appendix C-1)
- Continue to identify sites to be used for alternate care facilities, mass vaccination clinics and temporary morgues with EM personnel

#### **Pandemic Alert Phase 5**

- Continue to investigate any cases of ILI with the following criteria
  - ILI outside of regular influenza season
  - Travel to an area where pandemic influenza has been documented
  - Severe morbidity or mortality associated with ILI
- Continue to facilitate viral testing (through SLPH) of any persons who present with ILI and have epidemiological risk factors for novel influenza
- Establish communication plan with Immunization branch regarding vaccine acquisition
- Communicate with PHP&R regarding possible role of the SNS for distribution of antivirals and / or pandemic influenza vaccine
- Review guidelines for mass vaccination clinics with health department staff
- Identify additional vaccinators that could be called upon if needed
- Confirm locations of sites to be used for alternate care facilities, mass vaccination clinics and temporary morgues with EM personnel

## **Pandemic Phase 6**

- Before vaccine is available, discuss with Immunization branch approximate timeline for vaccine availability
- Prepare for mass vaccination clinics
  - Set times and locations
  - Determine which individuals will be vaccinated and how to contact them
- Administer pandemic influenza vaccine as it becomes available
- Track doses of pandemic influenza vaccine administered (Appendices C-3 and C-4)
- Assist state health department with obtaining data to determine age-specific attack rates, morbidity and mortality
- Work with state health department to determine vaccine efficacy
- Note that between the end of the first wave and the onset of the second wave, preparedness plans and surveillance activities need to remain at a heightened level

## **Postpandemic Period**

- Conduct an after-action review of mass vaccination efforts
  - Determine the amount of vaccine administered
  - Determine the population covered by vaccine
    - One dose of vaccine
    - Two doses of vaccine
- Assess the communication channels established during the pandemic
  - Local and state health department communication
  - Local health department and healthcare provider communication
  - Local health department and the public
  - Local health department and emergency management