

Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs
April 29, 2009

KEY EFFORTS

Lead State Responsibilities

- State Public Health: California, Texas, Ohio, New York, Kansas, Arizona, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan and Nevada

Lead Federal Responsibilities

- Lead Federal Strategic Communications Direction - White House Communications
- Lead Federal Communications Coordination - DHS Public Affairs
- Lead Federal Public Health - HHS/CDC
- Lead International (Consular Affairs) – DOS
- Lead Food Safety and Animal Health – USDA
- Lead Federal Personnel Communications – OPM
- Lead Communicator for Educational Facilities-Dept. of Education

World Health Organization

- WHO Phase of Pandemic Alert has been changed from Phase 4 to Phase 5 (Widespread Human Infection).
- Phase 5 is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region.
- This information has been updated on WHO's website: <http://www.who.int/en/>

2009 H1N1 Flu

Based on recommendations from scientists and medical professionals across government we are calling this virus 2009 H1N1 flu. There is no evidence at this time that swine in the United States are infected with this virus strain and therefore, this is not an animal health or food safety issue. The H1N1 virus strain that is emerging is a mixture of genetic material from other swine, avian and human influenza strains. Referring to this virus strain as swine flu mischaracterizes the genetic makeup of this virus and inaccurately conveys the notion that the virus is being transmitted by swine.

What's most important here are not changes in names, but rather that people need to stay updated on the changing nature of this outbreak and to stay informed with the most current guidance from public health professionals and health care providers.

Center for Disease Control:

- CDC is reporting 91 human infections with this influenza A (H1N1) virus of swine origin in the United States. (An increase in 27 over the number of cases reported yesterday.) The list of states with the numbers of people who are confirmed cases is

updated daily at 11am at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.

- Human infections with this new virus have been confirmed in 10 states at this time. Today, CDC also is reporting the nation's first death from this outbreak. This death occurred in the state of Texas in a 22-month-old child.
- Sadly, we expect to see more hospitalizations and more see deaths from this outbreak over the coming days and weeks. Based on the rapid spread of the virus thus far, we believe that more cases will be identified over the coming weeks and months.
- CDC's goals during this public health emergency are to reduce transmission and illness severity, and provide information to assist health care providers, public health officials and the public in addressing the challenges posed by this newly identified influenza virus.
- This is a rapidly evolving situation and guidance should be considered interim and will be updated frequently.
- On April 27 CDC, issued a travel health warning recommending that travelers postpone all non-essential travel to Mexico until further notice.
- CDC has developed a real-time RT-PCR Detection Panel to expand and maintain the operational capabilities of public health or other qualified laboratories by providing a detection tool for the presumptive presence of this influenza A /H1N1 virus. This diagnostic test is being distributed to states nationwide to increase their capacity to test at the state level.
- In addition, distribution of antiviral drugs, personal protective equipment, and respiratory protection devices from CDC's Division of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to all 50 states and U.S. territories continues.
- The Strategic National Stockpile has 49.9 million regimens of antiviral drugs. Six million of this total quantity is designated for specific purposes i.e. containment and the remaining 44 million are allocated to the public health emergency preparedness project areas, based on their population. The SNS deployment includes approximately 11 million antiviral regimens, masks, N95 respirators, Gowns, Gloves and face shields
- And we have begun the process to get a vaccine developed.
 - Stay informed. Health officials will provide additional information as it becomes available. Visit www.cdc.gov/swineflu
- Take these everyday steps to protect your health:
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Do not go to work or school if you are sick. CDC recommends that you limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- **If you are sick, do not go to work or school.**
- Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.
- If you don't have one yet, consider developing a family emergency plan as a precaution. This should include storing a supply of extra food, medicines, facemasks and other essential supplies.

Department of Homeland Security

At the advice of the public health community and the best scientific information we have, we do not intend to close our nation's borders. With containment no longer feasible, closing the border would do little to prevent a virus that is already present in the United States. We continue to remain focused on mitigation efforts at the recommendation of both the CDC and World Health Organization (WHO) based on what we currently know about H1N1.

Yesterday, Secretary Napolitano announced the establishment of an operations coordination task force for the H1N1 flu outbreak. This task force will consist of chiefs of staff from relevant departments and agencies to focus on current operations and coordination of the U.S. government's response to H1N1 and plan for future needs. In addition, President Obama also has requested \$1.5 billion from Congress to support H1N1 response.

At our borders, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel continue to watch for signs of illness among travelers entering the United States. Travelers presenting symptoms will be isolated and evaluated by a public health official. CBP is also handing out CDC Traveler's Health Alert Notices in both English and Spanish to all travelers from Mexico.

As of today, CBP has referred a total of 49 suspected cases to the CDC or state and local health officials. All results have been negative, except 8 that are still pending. No one has been turned away and we are not denying entry into the United States on the basis of illness. Precautions are being taken to protect travelers and border personnel. Anyone that is exhibiting symptoms is referred to an isolated room where they can be evaluated by public health officials before proceeding to their destination.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has instituted similar protocols at airports, watching for individuals exhibiting flu-like symptoms and taking the appropriate

measures, including requesting the individual proceed to an area removed from other traveling passengers where local health officials will meet them.

Transportation Security Administration:

- TSA Officers are watching out for passenger illness while conducting screening. If an officer encounters an individual displaying symptoms they will provide the passenger a mask, wear one themselves, and request the individual proceed to an area removed from other traveling passengers where local health officials will meet them.
- TSA posted the CDC Traveler's Health Alert Notice to all document checking stations in front of security checkpoints and continues to work with airport stakeholders to post the at all airport gates, ticket counters, and on reservation Web sites, as well as other modes of transit.

DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties:

- The H1N1 Flu does not target any one race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion.
- The virus cannot be associated or attributed to any particular group of individuals.

Customs and Border Patrol:

- CBP continues to employ risk-based border screening to identify travelers who may be ill. This type of screening allows our personnel to observe travelers and identify signs of possible illness, as well as speak to those who may approach officers with complaints or sickness or illness who seek medical care. CBP has made available to its personnel personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks, and antivirals.
- The borders are open. Trade and travel continue to flow. Our personnel are distributing traveler health alert notices flyers to public.

US Coast Guard:

- The Coast Guard has directed all field personnel to be on the look out for people exhibiting flu-like symptoms on vessels encountered during safety and security operations and to strictly follow existing communicable disease response and notification protocols if required. The USCG does not provide recommendations to maritime companies or individuals on avoiding a specific country.
- The USCG has engaged the maritime industry to ensure vessel operators, crews and maritime entities are aware of the situation, taking action to prevent the spread of illness, and following existing protocols requiring notification to CDC of ill personnel on board prior to arrival in U.S. ports.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

- ICE is not aware of any individuals with a confirmed case of H1N1 in its detainee population. However, we are in continuous direct contact with authorities in states and locations where ICE detains people as well as the CDC, which is closely monitoring the H1N1 outbreak.
- Each detention facility used by ICE maintains a plan that addresses the management of infectious and communicable diseases, which includes coordination with public health

authorities.

US Customs and Immigration Services:

- All USCIS offices in Mexico, with the sole exception of the visa section in Ciudad Juarez, are currently closed due to a travel health warning issued by the State Department. The offices are closed to the public; however, they may be made available in emergency cases.
- All other USCIS offices throughout the world remain open; customers may attend all previously scheduled appointments, interviews, and ceremonies unless they feel ill.
- Office closing information is updated on the USCIS Web site at www.uscis.gov; customers can also contact the National Customer Service Center at 800-375-5283.

US Department of Agriculture:

- USDA is reminding its trading partners that U.S. pork and pork products are safe and there is no basis for restricting imports of commercially produced U.S. pork and pork products. This is not an animal health or food safety issue. This discovery of the A-H1N1 virus is in humans. Any trade restrictions would be inconsistent with World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines.
- USDA continues to remind U.S. pork producers about the importance of ensuring their herds are healthy and to take all appropriate bio-security measures.
- The Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to work with all state animal health officials to affirm they have no signs of animal illness in their states. To date, no cases have been reported. USDA and the United States Trade Representative also remind our international partners that U.S. pork and pork products are safe and there is no basis for restricting imports.

Food and Drug Administration:

- FDA Issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) to make available to public health and medical personnel tools to identify and respond to the H1N1 virus under certain circumstances. The agency issued these EUAs for the use of certain Relenza and Tamiflu antiviral products, and for the rRT-PCR H1N1 Panel diagnostic test.
- On Monday (April 27), the FDA issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) to addresses the off-label use of these FDA-approved products, since normal prescribing and dispensing requirements cannot be met.
- The EUAs allow for oseltamivir to also be used to treat children younger than 1 year of age, and prevent influenza in children 3 months to 1 year of age.

Department of Defense:

- DoD's first priority is to preserve the ability of our servicemen and women and our DoD civilians worldwide to provide for national defense and sustain current military operations worldwide.
- DoD is monitoring the health of the force to ensure we're taking the necessary

precautions to educate and safeguard military and civilian personnel, as well as family members.

- DOD has contingency plans to address a pandemic in the U.S. and, if required, will follow procedures to ensure the health of the force and provide appropriate support to the American public.

Department of Education:

- Department of Education has shared CDC's school-specific guidance on mitigation and when to close campuses with key stakeholders around the country.
- ED will post additional guidance for school leaders and parents on ED.gov today in the form of answers to frequently asked school-specific questions, an update to ED's pre-existing page on pandemic flu, and continually updated CDC's H1N1 widget.
- ED is keeping track of school closings throughout the United States and asks schools and districts to inform ED's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools of any closures: osdfs.safeschl@ed.gov. (This is in addition to notification to public health authorities, of course.)

Department of Justice:

- The Department is providing information from recommended public health sources to personnel regarding protection against and prevention of H1N1 Flu.
- The Department and its components continue to monitor the situation and stand ready to provide law enforcement and legal assistance as appropriate.
- Inspectors from the U.S. Marshals Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Security Operations program are actively engaged in providing CDC with law enforcement assistance, route assessments and site security briefings for the deployment of pharmaceuticals.

Department of Labor:

- Department of Labor and OSHA are addressing safety and health hazards in our nation's workplaces, particularly the steps that need to be taken to protect the country's responders: health care workers, border guards and other employees who are crucial to addressing this potential health threat.
- OSHA has developed general guidance on pandemic influenza and more expansive guidance directed at healthcare workers and employers, and the Department is closely consulting with the White House, Departments Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and others to make sure that those precautions are taken.

US Department of Transportation:

- DOT is working with transportation industry stakeholders in aviation, railroads, cruise ships, transit, trucking, and buses to ensure proper protective actions are being taken while minimizing the impact on the traveling public and transportation industries.
- DOT is studying possible economic impacts of the H1N1 outbreak on transportation

industries.

- DOT is participating in an interagency legal review of emergency authorities for this type of disease outbreak.

US National Guard:

- The National Guard will be fully involved at the local, state and federal levels in the planning and executing of the nation's response to this H1N1 outbreak.
- More than 400,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen are available to the state governors to respond to this crisis, even while nearly 40,000 remain deployed overseas.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

- There have been no reports of any impact on the NRC or any NRC licensees.
- The NRC will maintain contact with industry representatives regarding this matter until further notice.
- Should the federal government determine that conditions warrant implementing the nation's pandemic response plan, the NRC will act in concert with the Department of Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other federal agencies.

H1N1 Resources:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

For more information or call 1-800-CDC-INFO

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/swineflu

Please send your H1N1 talking points to: nationaljic@dhs.gov

State Department Travel Advisories: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

Widgets from CDC: <http://www.hhs.gov/web/library/index.html#HHSWidgets>
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

Media contact for CDC H1N1 email address: mediaswineflu@dhs.gov

FDA's Emergency Use Authorization of Medical Products Guidance, go to www.fda.gov/oc/guidance/emergencyuse.html.

To report school closings: flu@ed.gov

What others are saying:

GALLUP PRINCETON, NJ -- Although 22% of Americans report worrying about getting swine flu, there appears to be only minimal impact on the public's daily behavior so far, despite extensive news coverage about the virus and its potential spread. A Gallup Poll conducted Tuesday night shows that just 1% to 3% of Americans say they decided not to go shopping or go out to a restaurant, canceled an airline trip, decided not to use mass transit, stayed home from work, or kept a child home from school because of concerns about swine flu.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/118078/Worries-Swine-Flu-Not-Yet-Affecting-Behavior.aspx>

Our Opinion: Quick Global Reponse Key To Swine Flu Fight

Because of pandemic threats in recent years, government officials in this country have a clear idea of how to address the situation. There are no guarantees that everything that will be done will work, but it is reassuring to note that things are being done. If health officials weren't doing anything, then it might truly be time to panic.

<http://www.yankton.net/articles/2009/04/29/opinion/editorials/doc49f7bda5374b7153321025.txt>

NATIONAL DAILY EVENT SCHEDULE

Today-April 28, 2009

Time	Event	Lead Organization
2:30PM PST	CA	State of California
2:30PM CDT	Iowa	State of Iowa
4PM CDT	Michigan	State of Michigan
5PM EDT	North Carolina	State of North Carolina
9PM EDT	White House Press Conference	White House

Tomorrow-April 29, 2009

Time	Event	Lead Organization
11AM EDT (DAILY)	NICCL	DHS NJIC
12PM EDT (DAILY)	North Carolina	State of North Carolina
1PM EDT	CDC News Conference	CDC
1PM EDT	HHS/DHS Webcast Teleconference	HHS/DHS HQ
1PM EDT (DAILY)	Dr. Jose Montero, Director of Public Health, media conference	State of New Hampshire
2:30PM PST (DAILY)	Gov of California	State of California

The Department of Homeland Security's External Affairs Update is a daily compendium of updated facts regarding the federal efforts staged and effected in response to [INSERT DISASTER NAME HERE]. The External Affairs Update provides information on key efforts by responding agencies, key messages, key statistics, and talking points. This Update is not for release to the public.

2:30 PM EST	SICCL	DHS NJIC
3PM EST (DAILY)	DHS/HHS HQ	DHS/HHS HQ
5PM EDT (DAILY)	North Carolina	State of North Carolina

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