Short Messages on Pandemic Flu

To be used on web sites, newsletters, bulletins, etc.

Pandemic Flu: Know the Facts

Pandemic flu is a worldwide outbreak of illness that occurs when a new influenza virus appears and spreads easily from person to person. Pandemic flu could happen at any time, and would affect people in Wisconsin and around the world. Because humans have no experience with this new virus, even people who normally do not get very sick from seasonal flu—like healthy adults—may get seriously ill or die. Symptoms are similar to those of seasonal flu—fever, cough, runny nose, and muscle pain—but can be more severe and can lead to a higher rate of complications, such as pneumonia. For more information about pandemic flu, visit http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov.

Pandemic Flu: Important to Plan Ahead

Prepare now in order to help you better handle the disruption to daily activities that a pandemic could cause. Work with employers, talk with neighbors, make plans with family and friends, and create an emergency kit. In addition to helping you be more prepared for a pandemic, these and other efforts will be useful in responding to a variety of emergencies, such as natural disasters. Remember to make alternate plans for child care, store extra food and water, and have important medical and contact information on hand. For more pandemic planning information, visit http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov.

Pandemic Flu: Individual and Family Preparedness

While no one can know for sure when a pandemic will happen, preparing now will help reduce the impact a pandemic can have. Here are a few things you can do: Think about how a pandemic may affect your daily life; Make plans for childcare in case schools have to close; Talk with your employer about their pandemic or emergency plans, and; Get in the habit of practicing good personal health habits—such as washing hands regularly—which helps prevent the spread of viruses. As with any emergency planning, people should have items such as medical and contact information, water, non-perishable food, first-aid kit, radio, and batteries on hand. For more information on things you, your family, and your community can do to prepare, visit http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov.

Pandemic Flu: Preparing a Top Priority for Wisconsin

Wisconsin is taking several steps to prepare for a possible pandemic. The state is working with Federal partners in monitoring the bird flu virus for changes that may make it spread easily from human to human. Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Natural Resources are working with the Wisconsin health departments in case bird flu does change and causes a pandemic. Wisconsin hospitals have agreed to assist one another in emergencies such as a pandemic, and Wisconsin is stockpiling supplies for use during a pandemic. To find out more about what Wisconsin is doing to prepare for a pandemic, visit http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov