

Broome County
Health Department

Pandemic
INFLUENZA
Plan

August 31, 2006

Broome County Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Plan
August 2006

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Introduction

Pandemic influenza occurs when a novel influenza virus appears that causes readily transmissible human illness against which most of the population lacks immunity. Several features set pandemic influenza apart from other public health emergencies or community disasters:

- Influenza pandemics are expected but arrive with very little warning.
- Outbreaks can be expected to occur simultaneously throughout much of the U.S., preventing sharing of human and material resources that usually occur in the response to other disasters. Localities should be prepared to rely on their own resources to respond. The effect of pandemic influenza on individual communities will be relatively prolonged (weeks to months) in comparison to disasters of shorter duration.
- Because of widespread susceptibility to a pandemic influenza strain, the number of persons affected will be high.
- Health care workers and other first responders will be at higher risk of exposure and illness than the general population, further straining the health care system.
- Effective preventive and therapeutic measures, including vaccine and antiviral agents, are likely to be delayed and in short supply.
- Widespread illness in the community could result in sudden and potentially significant shortages of personnel in other sectors that provide critical public safety services.

The purpose of the *Broome County Department of Health Pandemic Influenza Plan* is to assist the public and health care providers in preparing for and responding rapidly and effectively to an influenza pandemic, consistent with state and national guidance. Not all pandemic periods are included in each section, as this plan concentrates on response to a pandemic. Interpandemic and Pandemic Alert Periods will be found where applicable. The BCHD Pandemic Flu Plan was taken from the NYSDOH Pandemic Flu Plan, which closely follows federal guidelines.

The Broome County plan is divided into 13 sections:

- 1) Command and Control,
- 2) Surveillance and Laboratory Testing,
- 3) Healthcare Planning,
- 4) Infection Control,
- 5) Clinical Guidelines,
- 6) Vaccine Procurement, Distribution and Use,
- 7) Antiviral Medication Procurement, Distribution and Use,
- 8) Travel-Related Disease Control and Community Prevention,
- 9) Communications,
- 10) Training and Education,
- 11) Workforce Support,
- 12) Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza in Non-Human Animals, and
- 13) Public Health Preparedness and Informatics.

