



Pandemic Influenza

Unified Action Plan

Version 1

Friday, April 21, 2006

OPERATIONAL PERIOD

2

April 21, 2006 - September 1, 2006

Pandemic influenza is not the same as seasonal flu. It occurs in waves rather than as an isolated event. Pandemic influenza can no longer be treated as an historical event, theoretical possibility, or planning scenario. Experts in the field indicate that pandemic influenza is a question of when not if.

Over the past several years, the New Mexico Department of Health, partner agencies, and responsible parties at all levels and from all sectors have met, planned, and produced protocols and documents to deal with public health and medical surge, an overwhelming number of people seeking medical services and support.

More recently, the following groups came together to focus more closely on Pandemic Influenza: the New Mexico Department of Health, the New Mexico Office of Emergency Management, Governor's Commission on Disability, local emergency managers, public safety personnel, and representatives from hospitals, primary care, long term care, home health care, public health, behavioral health, EMS, and other health care providers, local planning groups, community organizations, and volunteer groups. In particular, meetings in December and early February led to consensus on the urgency of preparedness activities at all levels and in all sectors.

The National Guard conducted an executive level tabletop exercise in March to assess their planning efforts for a possible pandemic influenza event. The exercise with the Adjutants General, Joint Force Headquarters, and Chief of Staff of the 54 States and Territories was the second in an on-going series. The National Guard are conducting planning and educational efforts to prepare for a potential pandemic.

A Pandemic Influenza Summit, hosted by the New Mexico Department of Health and the US Department of Health and Human Services, was held on March 28, 2006 in Albuquerque. Attendees included federal, state, and local public health officials, emergency managers, business and community leaders, and the public. During the Summit New Mexico received a grant of \$956,824 to assist with pandemic influenza planning and exercises.

Avian flu (H5N1) presents the world with the next real threat of pandemic influenza. According to the New Mexico Department of Health, we are currently in event Phase 3 (see the WHO Global Pandemic Phases Summary at the end of this plan).

On February 17th representatives from the New Mexico Emergency Management Association (Don Scott), the New Mexico Office of Emergency Management (Jeff Phillips), and the New Mexico Department of Health (Tres Schnell) entered into a Unified Command to jointly plan and prepare for a Pandemic Influenza event. In March Dr. Leonard Thomas, with the Indian Health Service, agreed to join the Unified Command.

The goal of the Unified Command is to prepare and protect the people of New Mexico for a Pandemic Influenza event. This Unified Action Plan was created to meet this goal with the following General Control Objectives:

- Effectively inform the public;
- Implement an information sharing and communications program;
- Inform, educate, and integrate the New Mexico Modular Emergency Medical System (NM-MEMS) into all Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs);
- Ensure Pandemic Influenza response capability at the local level;
- Ensure effective resource management (human, equipment, and material); and,
- Ensure legal authorities are effectively and appropriately implemented.

The Unified Action Plan also establishes direction, control and coordination, the preparedness framework, and the operational plan for event contingencies.

Incident Action Plan

Incident Objectives/Response Priorities

NMEOC ICS 202

Incident Name:	Pandemic Influenza	Date Prepared:	April 21, 2006	Time Prepared:	NA
Operational Period:	Two (2)	Operational Period Date/Time:	From: April 21, 2006	To:	September 1, 2006

General Control Objectives For The Incident (Include Alternatives)

GCO 1 Effectively inform the public

Tasking #1: Implement a pandemic influenza public education campaign

Tasking #2: Implement a program of orientation and training on risk communication and emergency public information

Tasking #3: Provide orientation for media partners

Tasking #4: Develop all tools for warning, risk communication and emergency public information (EPI)

Tasking #5: Develop General Control Objectives/Task Assignments related to warning, risk communication and EPI for Contingency Incident Action Plan

GCO 2 Implement an information sharing and communications program

Tasking #1: Develop and update list of products to be distributed

Tasking #2: Distribute products according to established protocol

Tasking #3: Conduct periodic briefings of and by stakeholders

Tasking #4: Develop General Control Objectives/Task Assignments related to communications and information sharing for Contingency Incident Action Plan

GCO 3 Inform, educate, and integrate the New Mexico Modular Emergency Medical System (NM-MEMS) into all Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)

Tasking #1: Create NM-MEMS Standard Operating Guide (SOG), checklists, and job aids

Tasking #2: Prepare to roll out NM-MEMS to stakeholders

Tasking #3: Design NM-MEMS exercise program

Tasking #4: Develop General Control Objectives/Task Assignments related to NM-MEMS implementation for Contingency Incident Action Plan

GCO 4 Ensure Pandemic Influenza response capability at the local level

Tasking #1: Complete local assessments

Tasking #2: Complete local pandemic influenza appendices to local EOPs

Tasking #3: Participate in hospital based and public health regional exercises

Tasking #4: Participate in regional web-based Tabletop Exercise

GCO 5 Ensure effective resource management (human, equipment, and material)

Tasking #1: Conduct unified resource planning in support of the Pandemic Influenza Unified Action Plan

Tasking #2: Conduct resource acquisition and distribution in support of the Pandemic Influenza Unified Action Plan

Tasking #3: Maintain resource accountability

Tasking #4: Develop General Control Objectives/Task Assignments related to Resource Management for Contingency Incident Action Plan

GCO 6 Ensure legal authorities are effectively and appropriately implemented

Task Assignment(s) to be determined – focus on briefing judicial branch with regard to PHERA, involve Attorney General, Governor’s Office and Executive Branch Agency Legal Counsel, and US Attorney’s Office. Effort to clarify and de-conflict day-to-day authorities with emergency authorities.

Other Critical Information for Operational Period

Direction, control, and coordination

Unified Command includes:

Don Scott – New Mexico Emergency Management Association (NMEMA)

Tres Schnell – New Mexico Department of Health, Office of Health Emergency Management (NMDOH – OHEM)

Jeff Phillips – New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management (NM DPS – OEM)

Dr. Leonard Thomas – Indian Health Service (IHS)

Preparedness and stakeholder framework

This action plan provides the framework for statewide efforts in preparing to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from pandemic influenza.

The General Control Objectives and associated task assignments are directed toward, and success depends upon, active participation by the widest possible group of stakeholders.

Contingency Incident Action Plan

Contingency Task Assignments are developed for General Control Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5 that will guide the operations associated with successive pandemic phases.

Attachments (*** Required for IAP)

No	Incident Briefing (ICS 201)	No	Communications Plan (ICS 205)	No	Weather/Safety Message
No	Organizational Assignment List (ICS 203)	No	ICS Position/Phone Numbers (ICS 205-1) ***	No	Fact Sheet / Media Release
Yes	Task Assignments (ICS 204) – # attached <u>21</u>	No	Organizational Structure (ICS 207)	✓	Pandemic Influenza phases
No	EOC Request/Task Assignments (ICS 204-1) # attached _____	No	Schedule of Events (208)	No	Stakeholder framework
		No	Location Map _____ Location [ICS 209-(3-7)]		
		No	Situation Status Summary (ICS 209)		
Prepared By: (Name/Title)			Approved by: (Name/Title)		
Evonne Gantz, Planning Section Chief, New Mexico EOC			Unified Command: Tres Schnell, NMDOH Don Scott, NMEMA Jeff Phillips, NMDPS Dr. Leonard Thomas, IHS		

Summary of WHO Global Pandemic Phases
(WHO Global Influenza Preparedness Plan, 2005)

Interpandemic Period

Phase 1. No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human infection or disease is considered to be low

Phase 2. No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses a substantial risk of human disease.

Pandemic Alert Period

Phase 3. Human infection(s) with a new subtype but no human-to-human spread or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact.

Activation of the New Mexico State Unified Command (UC) – NMDPS, NMDOH, NM Emergency Management Association (NMEMA).

Phase 4. Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localized, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans.

Phase 5. Larger cluster(s) but human-to-human spread is still localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk).

Pandemic Period

Phase 6. Pandemic phase: increased and sustained transmission in the general population.

Postpandemic Period

Return to the Interpandemic Period (Phase 1)