

**Influenza Pre-Conference Workshop:
Pandemic Influenza Hospitalization Table Top Exercise
Sunday, June 5, 2005
12:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

Objective

Identify major institutional, local, state, and federal level issues that must be addressed so health care systems can handle much larger than usual numbers of patients during an influenza pandemic.

Overview

Estimates of the disease impact of a "medium-level" influenza pandemic are staggering. In the U.S. alone, between 18 million and 42 million people will seek outpatient medical care, between 314,000-734,000 will require hospitalization, and between 89,000 and 207,000 will die from pandemic influenza infection. During a "severe" pandemic, these numbers could be significantly higher. Preparedness is the key to substantially reducing the impact of an influenza pandemic and an essential preparedness component is health care system surge capacity. Communities must work together to develop plans to enable health care systems to handle significant increases in patient volume over a prolonged period of time. Maintaining adequate numbers of staff, beds, and supplies will be critical. It is our hope that this table top exercise will bring a variety of health care system, local, state, and federal partners to the table to highlight (1) critical issues that must be addressed, (2) possible solutions, and (3) important and useful partnerships.

Format

The session will consist of a moderated discussion among invited panel members as they react to a described pandemic scenario. The general audience will also have the opportunity to comment at several points during the session. At the end of the scenario, if time permits, there will be an opportunity for more discussion among all attendees.

Invited Panel

Panelists will include practicing physicians, infection control practitioners, hospital administrators, and representatives from local and/or state emergency medical services, public health, and emergency management. Federal organizations with a role in planning for and responding to health care system surge capacity needs, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will also be represented.

Who Should Attend

Anyone with responsibility for or interest in pandemic influenza planning or health care system surge capacity should plan to attend.

For More Information Contact

Alicia Postema, MPH
Epidemiologist
Influenza Branch
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Phone: 404-639-1726
Fax: 404-639-3866
E-mail: apostema@cdc.gov

Or

Jennifer Lemmings, MPH
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Phone: 770-458-3811
Fax: 770-458-8516
E-mail: jlemmings@cste.org