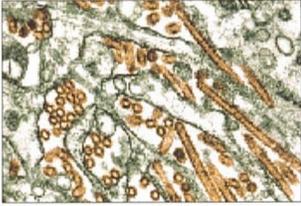


Preparation is Key to Sustaining Services

What is Pandemic Influenza?



Influenza viruses (flu) cause infections of the respiratory tract. In some people, complications of the flu can be severe — including pneumonia. Pandemic influenza is a global outbreak of flu from a new virus that is unlike other

influenza viruses. Because people have not been infected with a similar virus in the past, most or all of the population will not have natural immunity to this flu virus. For this reason, the virus can spread rapidly from person to person, resulting in a pandemic. For up-to-date information on Pandemic Influenza visit <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/index.jsp>.

Did you know?

Seasonal Flu:

- 5-20 percent of the U.S. population get the flu each year.
- More than 200,000 people in the U.S. are hospitalized per year.
- Approximately 36,000 people in the U.S. die from the flu each year.
- Flu-related illness costs the U.S. \$10 billion per year.

Pandemic Conditions:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts that 25-30 percent of the U.S. population could become infected.
- Hundreds of thousands of deaths could occur worldwide.
- Millions of people could require hospitalization worldwide.
- Communities may be impacted for weeks to months.



How can you protect your employees?

- Encourage employees to get flu vaccination each fall.
- Encourage staff to stay home if they have flu symptoms.
- If an ill employee must report to work, avoid close contact with other people, when possible.
- Promote hand hygiene by providing washing facilities and/or waterless hand sanitizers.
- Encourage respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette in the workplace (For posters and instructions see: www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm).



To minimize the impact of a pandemic on your operation:

- Develop a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).
- Name a pandemic coordinator.
- Identify essential employees.
- Identify critical services.
- Train and prepare ancillary workers.
- Establish an emergency communications plan and revise it periodically.
- Visit <http://ohden.sph.unc.edu/pandemic/federal.htm> for Pandemic Influenza Planning checklists specific to your group (state and local agencies; business; family; healthcare; schools; medical offices and clinics; emergency medical service and non-emergency medical transport organizations).
- Contact your local Health Department for pandemic information specific to your local community and visit the New York State Department of Health's website <http://www.health.state.ny.us>.

*Flu could affect 40 percent of the U.S. workforce.
Preparation is Key to Sustaining your Operation.*

Approximately 36,000 people in the U.S. die from the flu each year.

Assistance is available from DOSH:

- Professional Training
 - Influenza, Avian Flu, Pandemic Flu Awareness
 - Emergency Response Awareness
 - Bloodborne Pathogens
 - Respiratory Protection
 - Fit Testing
 - Personal Protective Equipment
- Risk Assessments/Hazard Analysis
- Tool Box Training Materials
- Continuity of Operation Plan Development and/or Assessment

How is it spread?

Infected birds shed the virus in saliva, feces, and nasal secretions. The virus spreads among waterfowl, poultry, and to humans through contact with infected birds, their secretions, or contaminated surfaces such as dirt or cages.

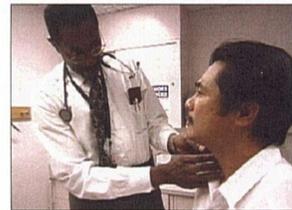


It may possibly be transmitted other ways, such as “the virus becoming aerolized and landing on exposed surfaces of the mouth, nose or eyes, or being inhaled into the lungs.”(CDC) The disease currently can pass from birds to humans. The spread from person to person has been limited and has not continued beyond one person.

What are the signs and symptoms in humans?

The most common and characteristic symptoms of avian influenza in humans include: fever, sore throat, myalgia (muscle pains), headache, cough, and malaise (weakness and fatigue), eye infections, pneumonia, and severe respiratory diseases (such as acute respiratory distress syndrome).

Is there a vaccination to prevent contraction of Avian flu?



Currently there is no vaccine that has been proven to protect humans from the H5N1 virus. The virus is resistant to antiviral medications commonly used for influenza. Other antiviral medications are being studied to determine their effectiveness.

For more information, contact your nearest DOSH Office:

Albany	(518) 457-5508
Binghamton	(607) 721-8211
Buffalo	(716) 847-7133
Garden City	(516) 228-3970
New York City	(212) 621-0773
Rochester	(585) 258-4570
Syracuse	(315) 479-3212
Utica	(315) 793-2258
White Plains	(914) 997-9514

What is Avian Influenza and what causes it?



Avian influenza (bird flu) is an infection caused by an influenza virus that normally affects only birds. These influenza viruses occur naturally in the intestines of some wild birds, but have the ability to make domestic birds

such as chickens and turkeys sick and may kill them. Avian influenza has, on occasion, mutated and caused severe infections in humans. One known subtype (H5N1) has recently been found to cause severe health risks and death to humans. This deadly strain of influenza virus has been found in birds, primarily in Southeast Asia. It has also been found in Europe and Africa, with potential to spread further via migratory waterfowl.

What is the difference between Avian influenza and Pandemic influenza?

Avian flu is transmitted generally among birds. However, pandemic flu may occur if the H5N1 virus mutates and gains the ability to transfer from human to human through coughing, sneezing, etc. Because the human immune system is not equipped to ward off pandemic influenza, those infected will be prone to more serious side effects than with normal influenza.

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