

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: January 18, 2006
SUBJECT: Flu Pandemic Preparations
ATTACHMENTS: Flu Pandemic Presentation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Staff has prepared the attached presentation to update the Board regarding preparations for a flu pandemic.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION/ACTION REQUIRED:

No Board action requested for this item.

FLU PANDEMIC PREPARATIONS

Pandemic vs. Epidemic

- An influenza pandemic is a global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new influenza A virus appears or "emerges" in the human population, causes serious illness, and then spreads easily from person to person worldwide. Pandemics are different from seasonal outbreaks or "epidemics" of influenza.

Viral Anatomy

- There are many subtypes of Influenza or "flu" viruses. The subtypes differ based upon certain proteins on the surface of the virus (the hemagglutinin or "HA" protein and the neuraminidase or the "NA" protein).
- Pandemic viruses emerge as a result of a process called "antigenic shift," which causes an abrupt or sudden, major change in influenza A viruses.

Pandemic History

- 1918-19, "Spanish flu," [A (H1N1)], caused the highest number of known influenza deaths. More than 500,000 people died in the United States, and up to 50 million people may have died worldwide.. Influenza A (H1N1) viruses still circulate today after being introduced again into the human population in 1977.
- 1957-58, "Asian flu," [A (H2N2)], caused about 70,000 deaths in the United States. First identified in China in late February 1957, the Asian flu spread to the United States by June 1957.
- 1968-69, "Hong Kong flu," [A (H3N2)], caused about 34,000 deaths in the United States. This virus was first detected in Hong Kong in early 1968 and spread to the United States later that year. Influenza A (H3N2) viruses still circulate today.

Local Preparations

- Incident Action Plan
 - Detection
 - Prevention
 - Disease Control / Treatment
 - Mass Care
 - Support Services

Incident Action Plan

- A systematic process designed to address multi-agency priorities along with tactical operations and resource assignments to achieve a common mission.

Questions or Comments


