

ALSDE and ADPH

- National Public Health Week
 - April 2-9, 2007
- April 5 - Schools Serving Children in K-12

State-Level School Closing Tabletop Exercise

- January 29, 2007
- Participants included representatives from all sectors:
 - Business
 - Healthcare
 - First responders
 - Education
 - Communications
 - Faith-based and community organizations
 - Government

State-Level School Closing Tabletop Exercise

- The exercise raised awareness of the potential affects school closing may have economically, socially, and politically and the need for pandemic planning for all sectors.
- Local school closing exercises will be conducted, contact your local health department for participation in these exercises or go to the website www.adph.org/pandemicflu.

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Alabama Schools

- The Alabama Department of Public Health and the State Department of Education coordinated to provide all public schools in Alabama with a series of CD-ROMs to educate teachers, staff, students, and parents.

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Alabama Schools

- ADPH provided "*Individual and Family Handbook: How You Can Prepare for a Flu Pandemic*" to all Department of Education staff and teachers across the state.

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Alabama Schools

- ADPH to provide all private schools in Alabama with the same series of CD-ROMs.
- ADPH is developing educational materials for all day care facilities in Alabama.

Pandemic Influenza Community Mitigation Guidance

- On February 1, 2007, CDC offered guidance that would delay or reduce the impact of a severe pandemic by limiting the spread of disease until a vaccine is available.

Pandemic Influenza Community Mitigation Guidance

- This document contains important planning information on a variety of subjects, including:
 - Community-based strategies
 - A Pandemic Severity Index (PSI)
 - Triggers for initiating community interventions
 - Consequences
 - Specific planning guidance

Community-Based Strategies

- In the beginning of an influenza pandemic, a vaccine is unlikely to be available. Therefore, a variety of community-based interventions must be applied to help reduce the spread of disease, including:
 - Social distancing
 - Staying home when sick
 - Avoiding large crowds
 - Prolonged school closings
 - Alternative work schedules

Pandemic Severity Index (PSI)

Case Fatality Ratio		Projected No. of Deaths US 2006
>2.0%	Category 5	>1,800,000
<1.0% - <2.0%	Category 4	900,000 - <1,800,000
<0.5% - <1.0%	Category 3	450,000 - <900,000
<0.1% - <0.5%	Category 2	90,000 - <450,000
<0.1%	Category 1	<90,000

Pandemic Severity Index (PSI)

- This will help communities gauge the potential severity and impact of a pandemic and the appropriate actions communities can take to limit the spread of the disease.

Community Mitigation Strategy by Pandemic Severity

Interventions by Setting	Pandemic Severity Index		
	1	2 and 3	4 and 5
Home: Voluntary isolation of ill at home (adults and children); combine with use of antiviral treatment as available and indicated	Recommend	Recommend	Recommend

Community Mitigation Strategy by Pandemic Severity

Interventions by Setting	Pandemic Severity Index		
	1	2 and 3	4 and 5
Voluntary Quarantine: Household members in homes with ill persons (adults and children); consider combining with antiviral prophylaxis if effective, feasible, and quantities sufficient.	Generally not Recommended	Consider	Recommend

Community Mitigation Strategy by Pandemic Severity

Interventions by Setting	Pandemic Severity Index		
	1	2 and 3	4 and 5
School Child Social Distancing: Dismissal of students from schools and school based activities, and closure of child care programs. Reduce out-of-school social contacts and community mixing.	Generally not Recommended	Consider: ≤4 weeks	Recommend : ≤12 weeks

Community Mitigation Strategy by Pandemic Severity

Interventions by Setting	Pandemic Severity Index		
	1	2 and 3	4 and 5
Adult Social Distancing: Decrease number of social contacts. Increase distance between persons. Modify postpone, or cancel selected public gatherings to promote social distance. Modify work place schedules and practices.	Generally not Recommended	Consider	Recommend

Consequences

- Consequences of community interventions should be anticipated and addressed in local and state planning efforts.
 - Economic impact to families
 - Potential disruption to all employers
 - Access to essential goods and services
 - Disruption of school-related services

Specific Planning Guidance

- Businesses and other employers
- Child care programs
- Elementary and secondary schools
- Colleges and universities
- Faith-based and community organizations
- Individuals and families

Specific Planning Guidance

- The document is available at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/community/mitigation.html>
- We encourage you to share this link with your staff and colleagues working on emergency response plans for an influenza pandemic.

Pandemic Influenza Facts

- Virus represents a possible and significant threat.
- No one is immune.
- Virus can be slowed but not stopped.

Pandemic Influenza Facts

- Human to human transmission has been documented.
- The virus continues to evolve.
- There is no vaccination.

Transmission Dynamics for Schools

- Children among the highest at-risk population.
- Children most likely to spread the disease.

Challenges for Schools

- Spread of virus among staff, students and community
- High absenteeism rates – staff and students
- Reactions to pandemic – fear, panic, stress

Challenges for Schools

- Psychological trauma prior to, during, and following an outbreak
- Media announcements and “specials”
- Economic impact of closing schools
- Social disturbances

School System Planning

- Develop a school/system plan of action
- Plan for disseminating information to
 - Staff/Students
 - Community
 - Media
- Ensure staff and student’s understanding of possible threat

School Staff Related Issues

- Determine basic planning and policy needs.
- Review and revise staff leave policies.
- Determine flexible work places/assignments.
- Use of technology and alternate work sites.
- Review medical insurance policies offered through the school system.

Planning Approach

- Update documentation
- Take corrective action
- Leverage technology and tools
- Validate the plan
- Identify gaps

Planning Approach

- Report results
- Identify vulnerabilities
- Review critical business functions
- Involve Business Units

Planning Approach

- Assign roles and responsibilities
- Define objectives
- Identify resource requirements
- Provide realistic scenario
- Measure performance
- Train primary and back-up personnel

Preventative Actions

- Implement social distancing at schools and in the community
- Close schools, if needed
- Keep students at home
- Encourage voluntary home isolation
- Encourage voluntary home quarantine

Ensuring Containment

- Implement staff/student health practices
 - Hand washing procedures
 - Cough and sneeze practices
 - School environment practices

Health and Hygiene Practices

- Implement social distancing
- Restrict physical contact
 - Handshakes
 - Hugs
- Limit use of closed meeting rooms and large meetings

Health and Hygiene Practices

- Delineate expected work behavior.
- Determine when staff/students stay home.
- Make plans for times staff and students congregate.
 - Cafeteria
 - Athletic events

Student Transportation Issues

- Develop plans needed to maintain transportation of students.
- Determine alternate transportation procedures, if needed.
- Enlist and train substitute bus drivers.

Communication Issues

- Determine communication process for:
 - School and central office
 - Home and community procedures communicate/enforce
 - School system policy

Communication Issues

- Determine communication process for:
 - Public health policy
- Develop prepared statements for release to:
 - Media
 - Parents
 - Employees
 - Students

Communication Issues

- List channels of communication to be used:
 - Web site(s)
 - Toll free numbers
 - Use open forums/discussions to gather ideas from staff, students, parents, and community.
 - Use tabletop exercises and simulated examples for staff and student discussions and training.

Employer Action Plan

- **Pre-planning**
- **Information monitoring**
- **Communication**
- **Sanitation**
- **Record keeping**