



Missouri's
Pandemic
INFLUENZA RESPONSE
Plan

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Emergency Response Plan

December 2011



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Vaccine Storage and Distribution
Antiviral Medication Storage and Distribution
Community Containment
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Psychosocial Services Preparedness
Public Communication

Introduction

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The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) previously published a pandemic preparedness plan in 2008. Since 2008, the world has experienced a pandemic due to a novel 2009 H1N1 influenza virus (pH1N1). On August, 10, 2010, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the H1N1 virus pandemic that lasted 14 months and affected 212 countries and territories was over. Significant practical experience has been gained in Missouri from responding to the H1N1 pandemic. There is greater understanding that pandemic preparedness requires involvement of not only the public health and the health care sector, but the whole of society. In light of the recent pandemic and experience gained, DHSS decided to update its plan to enable relevant agencies and the public to be better prepared for the next pandemic.

Preparing for, responding to and recovering from pandemic influenza will require a strategy with many similarities to other disease outbreaks, be they naturally occurring or resulting from terrorist action. The time-honored public health activities to lessen the impact on morbidity and mortality such as education, vaccination, prophylaxis, isolation/quarantine and the closure of public facilities are common to all, despite the particular disease of concern. In addition, clear, concise communication with the public, within DHSS, and with other agencies remains a critical component, as does the ability of the involved agencies to achieve collaboration and coordination. By its very nature, an influenza pandemic, once started, will not be stopped until it has run its course. This course can be shortened and weakened by many things, with vaccination being the gold standard for protecting the population. This plan, therefore, is not intended to describe the processes for stopping a pandemic, but rather to describe strategies of preparedness, response and recovery to attempt to decrease illnesses and deaths during the pandemic period to manageable levels (i.e., that do not overwhelm the critical infrastructures of the state), and to promote community resiliency and rapid recovery.

DHSS has emergency response plans in place, internally, and as part of the state response through the Missouri State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) that have been tried, tested and exercised for all aspects of response and recovery, including those mentioned above relating to disease surveillance, investigation and control. Where necessary, details or public information templates unique to pandemic influenza have been added into plans. This plan gives background information related to pandemic influenza, outlines the DHSS concept of operations for response, lists primary and support functional areas and provides technical support annexes outlining the available resources (i.e., “tools”) available to temper the pandemic and promote community resiliency and recovery. A broad, diverse and geographically dispersed group of agencies and organizations, representing the length, breadth and interests of the state collaborated with DHSS in completing the annexes of this plan. With committees organized under the umbrella of the Missouri Homeland Security Council, over four hundred representatives from hospitals, livestock corporations, local public health agencies (LPHAs), other state agencies, funeral homes, laboratories, financial institutions, fire departments, local and state governments, school boards, utility companies, universities, nursing homes and coroner’s offices, among others, engaged with DHSS providing input and expertise to produce a meaningful plan.

DHSS has primary responsibility to safeguard the health of the people of the state and all its subdivisions and will respond in the event of pandemic influenza to attempt to limit the impact on public health by reducing morbidity and mortality. These actions may also limit the impact on the social and economic infrastructure of the state. DHSS will serve to support the LPHAs in this effort, and lead the state-level response of a coordinated multitude of federal, state and private organizations and agencies. DHSS reserves the flexibility to modify the plan during the pandemic in response to the actual behavior of the disease and the effectiveness of the ongoing response. Lessons learned from previous waves will be incorporated going forward and modifications in planning may be made across all sectors to meet the key goals in public health and critical infrastructure support. Such changes will be rapidly and effectively communicated from DHSS to all partnered agencies and organizations per the communications plan to ensure best practices are consistently implemented statewide.

The following pages outline the concept of operations that DHSS and coordinated agencies and organizations will employ during pandemic response.

For an organizational chart of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and description of divisions see: <http://health.mo.gov/about/index.php>.