

Hamilton County Pandemic Influenza Forum for Faith Leaders

Presented by: Hamilton County General Health District in partnership with Cincinnati, Norwood, Springdale and Sharonville Health Departments

Hamilton County Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee

- Marcus Gardner, Director of Crisis and Community, Crossroads Community Church
- Susan Brokaw, M.D., Director of Parish Health Ministry, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
- Mark Bardonaro, Deacon, St. Dominic Church
- Pam Ward, R.N., Parish Nurse, Knox Presbyterian
- Billie Jean Schimian, St. Cecilia Church

Objectives

- Determine communication channels with public health in advance of an emergency
- Describe possible closures and restrictions on public gatherings
- Share prevention methods that were developed by faith leaders in Cincinnati that can be used to reduce illness in your congregation now and in the event of a pandemic

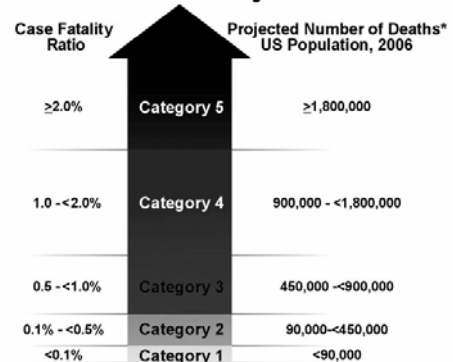
What is an Influenza Pandemic ?

- Pandemic is a global disease outbreak
- Influenza pandemic
 - Caused by a brand new (novel) flu virus
 - Human population has little or no immunity
 - Genetic make-up of the virus changes to cause severe illness
 - Spreads easily from person to person worldwide

Impact of an Influenza Pandemic

- Different from other types of crises/disasters – widespread and long lasting
- The severity of the potential influenza pandemic is unknown
- Large number of residents may become ill
- Large number of residents may die

Pandemic Severity Index



Hamilton County Pandemic Severity Index

Category	Case Fatality Ratio	Projected # of Deaths
1	<0.1%	<255
2	0.1 - <0.5%	255 - <1275
3	0.5 - <1.0%	1275 - <2550
4	1.0 - <2.0%	2550 - <5100
5	≥2.0%	≥5100

Assumes 30% illness, population of 850,000 in Hamilton County, 255,000 ill

As a Result

- Usual services may be disrupted – hospitals, health care centers, banks, restaurants, government offices, telephone and cellular phone companies, post offices and more
- Stores may have limited supplies
- Transportation services may be disrupted
- Public gatherings may be cancelled

Pandemic Influenza Planning

- Planning efforts that have taken place over the past several years
 - Formed of variety of working groups
 - Created pandemic influenza response plans
 - Trained staff
 - Implement telephone surveys to gather baseline data
 - Hosted a summit in July of 2006
 - Established several advisory committees

Pandemic Influenza

- Still a concern
- Public health continues to spend time and resources planning and preparing

Public Health Strategies to Minimize and Delay the Spread

- Home
- Schools
- Workplace/Community

Home

- Recommend individuals who are ill stay home for a period of time; may combine with use of antiviral treatments
- Recommend that individuals who live in the household of individuals who are ill stay home; may combine with antiviral prophylaxis if available

Schools

- Dismissal of students from school, school-based activities, and closure of childcare programs
- Reduce out-of-school contacts and community mixing

Workplace/Community

- Decrease the number of social contacts (encourage teleconferences and other alternatives to face-to-face meetings)
- Increase distance between persons
- Modify work schedules
- Modify, postpone or cancel selected public gatherings to promote social distance

Problems with Staying at Home for 7-10 days

- Lose pay and have money problems – 48%
- Lose job or business – 27%
- Unable to get baby formula/diapers – 45%
- Unable to get health care/Rx drugs – 43%
- Unable to get care of disabled household members – 36%
- Unable to get care for older persons in household – 35%
- Have difficulty taking care of children under the age of 5 – 32%

The Three C's

- Communication
- Cancellation
- Care

Communication

- Between Faith and Public Health
 - Through Media
 - Health Alert Network (requires contact information)
 - Public Information Line
 - Website
 - Others?

Communication

- Between Faith and their congregation
 - How
 - Information lines
 - Existing Communication channels
 - Websites, bulletins, newsletters, others?
 - What
 - Encourage individual preparedness
 - Deliver prevention messages
 - Deliver accurate information
 - Deliver calming messages during the crisis

Cancellation

- As a means of preventing the spread of illness, local health departments may recommend that individuals avoid large public gatherings for weeks to months
- Individuals may also be afraid to attend

Care

- Check on members to make sure they have the supplies they need
- Stockpile/Distribute food and supplies
- Provide in-home care to those who are sick
- Outreach to congregation members who need assistance (elderly, shut-in, etc.)
- Counseling for those who lose loved ones
- Assistance to those who have lost their jobs or have loss of income for a period of time
- Ensure care for children if schools/daycares are closed, do not open a daycare center (no more than six children at one location)
- Potential shelters/triage sites

What can be done now?

- Plan for and encourage other faith-based organizations to plan for Communication, Cancellation and Care
- Encourage your congregation to register with the Tri-State Medical Reserve Corps
- Educate your members on how to prepare for an influenza pandemic or other disasters/emergencies
 - Offer training on preparedness – train-the-trainer
 - Bulletin inserts
 - Bulletin boards
 - Post information on your website
 - Health fairs
 - Post information on hand hygiene - Cover Your Cough/Clean Your Hands Posters