

Sonoma County Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Task Force

Meeting Summary for December 18, 2008

NEXT MEETING: March 26, 2009, 10-12 noon
DHS Conference Center, 475 Aviation Blvd.

Alternate Care Sites (ACS) & Surge Planning (*Kim Caldewey, Public Health*)

- Public Health Preparedness is required by the state to plan for government authorized ACS when the number of patients overwhelms the community healthcare system capacity.
- Public Health has identified three facilities to meet the surge needs: 1) Sonoma Developmental Center (*130 beds possible*), 2) SRJC Race building (*up to 50 beds possible*), and 2) Warrack Hospital (*180 beds possible*).
 - MOUs with all three are pending.
- Planning components include resources for staffing, equipment procurement and administration.
- The state has provided some guidance for facility surge planning, but not yet for community-wide planning. We are advised to plan for pandemic influenza, a scenario in which we should not depend on mutual aid.
 - Public Health is working with public and private health care to prioritize and coordinate resource requests and other planning issues.

Infectious Waste Planning aka Medical Waste Planning (*Marty Isom, Environmental Health Services*)

- The plan is written as guidance for hospitals to be able to manage any situation that would cause an increase in waste.
- The issue about how to access more supplies during an event has been addressed by developing tracking documents.
- County Fleet Operations and the County Real Estate office will work together to plan for storage of the waste.
 - Storage of waste may exist for weeks to months until the proper transportation can be coordinated.
- The next step is to contact stakeholders to promote this plan.
- This plan will become an annex to the Public Health Pan Flu Plan.

Public Health / CDC / Flu / HPP Grants & Pan Flu Exercises (*Kim Caldewey, Public Health*)

- Public Health Preparedness experienced a reduction of funds across all grants.
 - The Federal government eliminated Pan Flu funding.
 - The State reduced Pan Flu funding.
 - HPP was reduced by the Federal Government.
 - All three grants had a reduction in funding of over 14%.
- There are a few requirements that still need to be met:
 - Complete the Pan Flu Plan-currently in revision
 - Conduct three exercises
 - October Satellite Broadcast,
 - March Pan Flu Tabletop Exercise
 - June 18 Pan Flu Functional Exercise
- The HPP grant is focused on increasing the healthcare system capacity to manage a surge in patients in the event of an infectious disease outbreak or other health disaster.

Pan Flu and general influenza update (*Mark Netherda, Public Health*)

- Globally pan flu has been in decline since 2006.
 - There have been only two definite human to human cases reported.
 - Not a single case has been reported since September 2008.
 - The overall mortality rate is 63%
- Seasonal Flu type A and B in Northern California is on the increase but not reaching the numbers it has in the past.
 - Only three states are reporting larger outbreaks so far this year.

Flu Shot Saturday, Full Scale Exercise (*Dawn Flamenco, Public Health*)

- Public Health conducted a full scale exercise at Lawrence Cook Middle School on Saturday, December 6, 2008.
 - The purpose of this exercise was to enhance pandemic influenza preparedness and to practice the operational functions and procedures of mass dispensing for Sonoma County Public Health.
 - The after action report (AAR) is currently being written and we hope to have it available for review in time for the next PHP Task Force meeting.
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Pan Flu Table top scenario (*Mark Netherda, Deputy Health Officer*)

The Association of Bay Area Health Officers (ABAHO) subcommittee on Pandemic Influenza is continuing to develop guidance and protocols for Pan Flu.

Scenario:

Committee members were asked to read the attached letter, "ABAHO Mask & Social Distancing letter", and respond with what they believe their organization/unit/division might do given the scenario the letter creates.

Discussion:

In the Workplace

- Schools and churches would be closed
- The Public Health TB clinic would have to continue to operate
- Environmental Health-Food inspections may be halted
 - May need to modify how inspectors do their jobs
- An increased level of personal protection, such as wearing masks, may need to be instituted for people doing any kind of work in public settings such as restaurants.
- Basic education to the public about the topic will be an issue
- Consider replacing the word: *recommends* in the above document, people may not take the letter seriously
- The PHP Task Force would like to be updated on the recommendations for isolation & quarantine
- What would happen for people such as dialysis patients who rely on transportation to the Indian Health Center or other similar facilities/services?
- During a real event would the increased usage of the internet for telecommuting/education and such cause any disruptions to the internet connections? Would the system be able to support such a large volume of activity?

Round Table

Mark Nethereda, Deputy Health Officer

- Creating a mass fatality planning task force to address the multiple, complex issues involved in properly managing a surge in decedents.

Gabe Kearney, Kaiser

- Recently conducted a hazard vulnerability assessment.
 - The planning process included members of the public, OES, Sheriff, Public Health, Memorial Hospital, Council on Aging, and a representative from the County Board of Supervisors. Gabe is in the process of working on the report and will have more information at the next meeting.
- Kaiser is in the process of developing a preparedness website.

Chris Helgren, Sonoma County Emergency Services

- In the process of writing the after action report for the Silver Sentinel, he will have a report ready for the next meeting.
- The Homeland Security grant has been approved; they will begin to move forward with plans.
- Emergency Services is currently waiting on the local cache of items they have ordered.

Jane Barry, West County Health Centers

- Implementing a safety committee for the health centers that will work on preparing employees and families with home safety.

Gabrielle Trubach, MRC Coordinator

- Conducted Point of Dispensing (POD) training for 65 MRC and Public Health staff on Saturday, November 1, 2008. The training consisted of understanding infection control issues in a POD setting, reviewing proper safety techniques of vaccine administration, implementing the main function of ICS and basic POD functions, patient flow, and potential roles.

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DHS Conference Center, Large Conference Room
475 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Attachments:

Medical Waste Plan

Draft Health Officer Guidance on Mask Use and Social Distancing