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Subject: Pandemic Influenza: Highlights of The National Strategy

Federal, State, and local governments as well as the private sector are making plans and actively working toward preventing and responding to a potential pandemic.

President Bush announced the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza on November 1, 2005 and the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan in May 2006. The Strategy outlines the approach that the Federal Government will take to prepare for and respond to a pandemic, and articulates expectations of non-Federal entities to prepare themselves and their communities. The Strategy contains three pillars: (1) preparedness and communication; (2) surveillance and detection; and (3) response and containment.

The Deputy Secretary issued a memorandum to all Departmental Elements on March 29, 2006, directing the Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) to lead the implementation of the Department's pandemic plans. The Acting Assistant Secretary for EH established a Biological Event Monitoring Team (BEMT), represented by key departmental elements, who are developing the DOE Strategy to address this threat. This team will coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other U.S. Governmental Agencies in the event of a pandemic.

Public health authorities in the United States and worldwide are studying a new avian influenza virus strain that could initiate a global influenza pandemic. Pandemic flu has occurred naturally throughout history and in the past 100 years 3 pandemics have been documented: 1918-1919 Spanish flu; 1957-1958 Asian flu; and 1968-1969 Hong Kong flu. Pandemics are unpredictable. It is difficult to know when one will occur, what type of flu it will be, or how severe it will be.

The Department's planning includes an education and informational campaign that will go on through the summer. It will include posters, exhibits and fact sheets on the President's National Pandemic Influenza Strategy and various aspects of DOE Pandemic Planning. Exhibits will be on display in the Forrestal Ground Floor Lobby and the Germantown North Lobby, copies of the fact sheets will be posted in elevator banks at Headquarters, and all materials will be posted electronically at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/health/hservices/occmed/pandemicstrategy.html>. The electronic posters and fact sheet are in PDF and PowerPoint format making them easily downloadable and printable for use in your office.

For more information on Pandemic Preparedness, access the Department's website or any of the following resources.

Department of Energy Pandemic Preparedness:
<http://www.eh.doe.gov/health/avian.html>

White House: Advancing The Nation's Preparedness For Pandemic Influenza:
www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/pandemicflu

CDC Avian Influenza: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>

World Health Organization: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/

H5N1 vaccine development process by National Institutes of Health:
<http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2005/H5N1QandA.htm>

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