

## Pandemic Influenza Planning

### Get Informed. Be Prepared.

As you may have seen in the media, there is concern about the possibility of a flu pandemic due to the H5N1 virus. This influenza strain, known as bird flu or avian influenza has infected domesticated birds, like chickens, and wild birds in 50 countries in Asia, Europe and Africa. Flu pandemics occur when a new influenza virus infects people who have little or no immunity. It can affect people of all ages, backgrounds, and locations resulting in severe illness and death. There is concern that due to the nature of pandemics, normal day to day activities and services that we take for granted may be disrupted.

Knowing what to expect, how to prepare, and where to find information can help minimize the impact of a pandemic on you and your family. This information can be accessed through <http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/avian.html>

You can find additional information on planning and preparing for pandemic flu at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

The Department of Homeland Security's Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza sets forth actions to be taken by Federal agencies and departments. As the Department of Energy takes steps to insure the continuation of its critical mission, the health and well-being of DOE employees are of the highest priority. The Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) and the National Nuclear Safety Administration have been identified to lead the Department's response to pandemic influenza.

Through the formation of the Biological Events Monitoring Team (BEMT), representing key departmental elements, a strategy to address this threat is being developed to include all field elements incorporating pandemic planning into their Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP). The BEMT coordinates efforts with the Department of Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Federal Agencies.

For additional information contact: Bonnie Richter, PhD, Director, HSS Office of Illness and Injury Prevention Programs ([bonnie.richter@hq.doe.gov](mailto:bonnie.richter@hq.doe.gov) or 301 903-4501)