

CITY OF SANIBEL



STRATEGY FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

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**CITY OF SANIBEL
Pandemic Influenza Plan**

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PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Introduction

According to public health officials, the world is now closer to another influenza pandemic than at any other time since 1968, when the last of the three centuries previous pandemics began.

At present, two primary strategies have been implemented for addressing the current avian influenza virus and reducing the related pandemic threat. The first strategy, which aims to reduce opportunities for a pandemic virus to emerge, consists of efforts to contain outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in poultry, prevent the spread of this disease to new countries, and thus reduce opportunities for human infections to occur. The prevention of high-risk behaviors is part of this strategy, as is the strengthening of the early warning system.

The second strategy, which is being introduced in tandem with the first strategy, is to intensify the world's preparedness to cope with a pandemic, internationally, nationally, regionally and locally. Activities taking place within this strategy include the formulation of national preparedness plans, improved access to antiviral drugs, and the development of pandemic vaccines and of plans for increasing their accessibility and affordability, planning for implementation of public health measures to reduce morbidity and mortality, and the development of communication plans and messages to improve compliance with recommended measures and reduce social and economic disruption.

The role of the City of Sanibel is to participate in providing public information communications in the event of a pandemic, develop and implement a response plan to ensure continuation of essential local government services and to identify targeted recipient groups for vaccination within the City of Sanibel; such as emergency workers and other highly necessary members of the workforce including Sanibel City Council who are critical to the operation of the City.

Responsibilities of Governmental entities

The Federal Government has the responsibility to:

- Identify the risk of an influenza pandemic annually
- Order vaccinations based upon the annual assessment
- Track the spread of influenza
- Distribute vaccine to affected areas

The State Government has the responsibility to:

- Order vaccinations as needed
- Distribute vaccinations to local health departments for distribution

The County Government has the responsibility to:

- Educate local communities in advance of a pandemic
- Determine local vaccination storage locations and capacity
- Define procedures to assure the biological safety and physical security of the vaccine in the Health Department
- Identify community partners who will work with the Health Department to administer vaccine to targeted populations
- Define procedures to accurately document the receipt and re-distribution of vaccine
- Develop a system for notifying community partners with as much notice as possible
- Assure that the redistribution of the vaccine will occur prior to receiving the next capacity shipment so no vaccine is lost because of storage shortages

The Local Government has the responsibility to:

- Implement an Incident Command System (ICS)
- Identify Local Partners
- Identify City employees to be vaccinated
- Brief City Council
- Educate the community in advance of a pandemic including stock piling supplies, and identification of early symptoms and indications of pandemic influenza
- Maintain public order
- Identify special needs and high risk citizens

City of Sanibel Pandemic Influenza Action Plan

PLANNING - Phase I

Emergency planning based upon the existence of novel virus

- Develop, update and maintain a response plan for addressing pandemic influenza
- Prepare educational materials for Public awareness campaign
 - ▶ Available for non- English speaking persons
- Identify City employees who will work from home
- Identify public meetings and gatherings that can be cancelled
- Identify City offered programs and cancel or adjust as needed
- Order N95 respirator masks and gloves for City Emergency workers
- Order Personal Protective Equipment for City Emergency workers
 - ▶ Order antiviral, masks, and hand wash
- Review data base for special needs populations
- Educate residents and visitors on supplies to stock up on, including; food, water, and essential items as recommended by health officials
- Prepare City ordinances for quarantine, curfew, etc.
- Convene Partners to review plan and their role in subsequent phases.

AWARENESS – Phase II

**Novel virus with person-to-person transmission in world, not in United States
Estimated duration: days to months**

- Maintain communication with Lee County Health Department and Lee County Emergency Operations Center
- Start briefings with City of Sanibel City Council and City Staff
- Establish Incident Command System structure with Sanibel Fire District
- Review State Statutes on quarantine/screening
- Review staffing schedules for the possibility of reduced workers
- Encourage home care for people with respiratory symptoms
- Identify levels of supplies and vendors to be ordered in Phase III.
- Convene local partners meeting to review their specific readiness in the event of a pandemic outbreak and review each partners role

PREPARATION LOW LEVEL RESPONSE - Phase III
Influenza virus in United States, not in Florida
Estimated duration: days to weeks

- Implement Briefings with City Council, City Staff, and City Partners
- Continue communications with Lee County Health Department and Emergency Operations Center
- City Liaison to report to Emergency Operations Center when activated
- Continue Public Awareness Information using all citywide communication capabilities available.
- Distribute Personal Protective Equipment, N95 respirator Masks; dispense antiviral, to City emergency personnel and include training/fitness testing
- Implement public awareness plan
- Prepare FAQ's for travelers
- Information on self care and prevention, including when to seek medical attention
- Information on how to care for ill family member at home

PREPARATION HIGH LEVEL RESPONSE - Phase IV

Influenza virus in Florida, but not Lee County

Estimated duration: 1-5 days

- Continue briefings with Council, City Staff, and Partners
- Prepare skeleton crew schedule for City
- Council to activate all City emergency Ordinances
- Police Department on Alpha-Bravo shifts
- Emergency Operations Center to Level 2 activation/ City EOC liaison reports to EOC
- Begin daily updates with information via City Web site
- Discourage private health providers from referring all patients with respiratory symptoms to emergency departments
- Coordinate with EMS/Fire and Lee County Health Department for updated list of homebound and high risk individuals on Sanibel
- Prepare to deliver food to homebound
- Establish daily phone call log to homebound and high risk individuals
- Identify hotels for housing and potential shelters for operations for Lee County Health Department and Medical teams
- Report and fill out forms for any Wild Bird Die-offs to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (see attached form)