

**Biological Appendix – Attachment 5**

**Special Considerations**

**Pandemic Influenza**

Pandemic influenza is a unique public health emergency. No one knows when the next influenza pandemic will occur. However, when it does occur it will be with little warning. If a novel virus capable of efficient human transmission is initially identified outside the U.S., experts believe that it will take one to six months for widespread outbreaks to begin to occur locally. Outbreaks are expected to occur simultaneously throughout much of the nation, preventing effective reallocation of human and material resources.

An influenza pandemic will occur in multiple waves. The effect of the initial wave on individual communities will be relatively prolonged (as long as six to eight weeks) when compared to the minutes-to-hours observed in most natural disasters. Due to the prolonged nature of a pandemic influenza event, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the CDC have defined phases of a pandemic in order to facilitate coordinated plans.

The noted charts are provided as part of this attachment from the **National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan** (May 2006). The first chart defines the WHO phases. The second chart defines the stages of the Federal Government Response as they correlate to the WHO phases:

- WHO Global Preparedness Phases and the Stages for Federal Government Response (**Attachment 5A**)
- Stages of Federal Government Response (**Attachment 5B**)

**Local Planning Considerations**

Preparedness activities for a pandemic influenza are essentially the same as for other public health emergencies arising from contagious disease outbreaks.

Items of particular importance are:

- Prioritization for the allocation of resources (vaccine, antivirals, supplies, and equipment)
- Congregate care of the acutely ill population
- Continuity of Operations planning for agencies and organizations that provide essential services in the community
- Designation of command strategies to provide direction from authorities regarding uses of personal protection equipment and social distancing measures (refer to Disease Containment Standard Operating Guideline).
- Effective communication to minimize confusion, disorder and community unrest (refer to Risk Communication Standard Operating Guideline).

Individuals must also be encouraged to take steps now to prepare for a pandemic.

Such actions include:

- Developing a family preparedness plan (<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab3.html>). The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan also provides guidance for individuals, families and community response actions.

This information is noted in the chart titled: Individual, Family and Community Response to Pandemic Influenza (**Attachment 5C**)