



Pandemic Planning – Avian Flu

Overview

Recently, an anxious world has been following the avian flu, as it has remained unabated in Southeast Asia, Europe and Africa. Infectious disease professionals warn us that we are watching the slow development of the next global pandemic of Influenza. Companies have the unique opportunity to prepare a pandemic response plan now in order to be ready **when** the next pandemic arrives on our shores...note the word **when**. This is an issue of not **if** but **when** and **which** influenza strain.

Pandemic Planning – A Unique Opportunity

Companies have a unique opportunity to develop and implement a company wide Pandemic Plan in an effort to mitigate its exposure. Once the pandemic begins it will likely strike a company office somewhere in the world within weeks, possibly days. Before embarking on a planning process, the following issues need to be considered.

- It **will** happen. Experts believe another pandemic is inevitable – they just don't know when it will happen. Influenza pandemics have occurred about every 30 – 40 years.
- There will be **very little warning**. Most believe that there would be one to six months between the moment a new Influenza strain is identified and before outbreaks would occur in the US.
- Vaccines will **likely not be available for 6 - 12 months** (if at all) from the time the organism is identified and it will likely require two doses, 30 days apart.
- The pandemic will likely **occur simultaneously** throughout the US and the world, preventing shifts of resources that normally occur with natural disasters.
- There will be a **prolonged effect on communities** – lasting months, maybe as long as a year.
- **Biologics** will be in **short supply** (vaccinations, antibiotics and antivirals).
- Health care workers and first responders will be at high risk for exposure and illness that could **severely impact the health care system** and medical response.
- There will likely be a **shortage of personnel in important sectors**- military, police, fire, utility workers, etc.
- There will be a **substantial economic impact**.

Emergency Management & Safety Solutions – A Proven Planner

EMSS has been developing pandemic plans for large global companies since early 2003, a full eight months before the current avian flu outbreak began in South Korea. In the past three years, EMSS has finely tuned a comprehensive planning process that includes the use of a finely honed template, educational training and facilitated task force sessions to prepare a company to manage this highly complicated emergency event. EMSS's principal, Regina Phelps, is an invaluable planner with many years of experience in both the healthcare and emergency management industries. She leads the planning process effectively and is invaluable to her clients as a global leader in pandemic planning. She has been extensively reported by print, radio and television media on the topic and has written widely on pandemic business planning. Contact EMSS today to learn how we can assist you in the pandemic planning process.