

# State Health Agency Planning for Pandemic Influenza and Other Emerging Infections

HHS Advisory Committee on Blood Safety & Availability

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# What is ASTHO?

- ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members are the chief health officials of these jurisdictions.
- ASTHO's mission is to formulate and influence sound national public health policy and to assist state health agencies in the development and implementation of programs and policies to promote health and prevent disease.

# ASTHO's Pandemic Flu Activities

- Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Planning for State Health Officials Report
- Comments on the National Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan
- Member Representation on National Pandemic Preparedness Working Groups

# ASTHO's Role during an Emerging Public Health Threat

- Coordination of the response with federal, state, and local public health agencies and national partner organizations (NACCHO, CSTE, APHL).
- Input and feedback on emerging federal guidance, policies, and recommendations.
- Sharing of information and concerns between federal and state agencies, and sharing of best practices among states.

# State Health Agency Role during an Emerging Public Health Threat

- Disease surveillance, investigation, response, and intervention.
- Ongoing public communication and education.
- Coordination of response with local public health agencies, medical community, and community organizations.

# Public Health & Community Blood Centers: Learning from Past Public Health Events

- ***September 11, 2001***—  
Underscored the need for coordinated messages to the public about the need for blood donations.
- ***Pre-Event Smallpox Vaccination Program*** —  
Emphasized the need for advance planning and consideration of the impact of new vaccine programs on the blood supply.
- ***Transfusion-associated WNV Transmission*** —  
Required public health and blood collection agency cooperation around emergence of a new threat to the U.S. blood supply.

# Anticipated Pandemic Flu Issues

- How will we ensure an adequate blood supply?
- Will community blood center staff be prioritized for antivirals and/or vaccine?

# Strengthening the Relationship: Public Health & Community Blood Center Coordination for Pandemic Flu Preparedness

- Know your state public health preparedness advisory committee
- Present a unified voice, to the extent possible
- Work with your state health agency and hospitals on state pandemic planning
- Coordinate with the media and other community organizations
- Anticipate pandemic communication and education messages pre-event



# Continued Investment in Emerging Infectious Disease Infrastructure

Continued support for state and local epidemiology and laboratory infrastructure is critical to provide the surveillance and laboratory services needed to detect and respond to emerging infections with the potential to impact the blood supply.