

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

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Davis, Waxman Release Report on
DOD's Pandemic Flu Preparedness Efforts

Washington, D.C. – Today Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis and Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman released a new GAO report on the Department of Defense's pandemic influenza preparedness efforts. The report found that while the Department had taken a number of important steps to prepare for an influenza pandemic, accountability, funding, and communications need to be clearer and more focused across the Department.

"Experts warn that it is only a matter of time until the world experiences the next flu pandemic," Davis said. "Because a pandemic could occur at any time, it is critical that we be prepared. We need to be able to treat the sick, prevent the spread of the disease, and keep the country, including critical government agencies such as DOD, functioning."

"The report underscores the importance of good planning to deal with public health emergencies," said Rep. Waxman. "I hope that DOD will implement GAO's recommendations -- particularly the recommendation to establish explicit lines of authority and accountability."

The Government Reform Committee has held several hearings on the Administration's National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza. DOD is responsible for almost one third of the actions in the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy. Better integration of the plan throughout the department coupled with a comprehensive and effective communications strategy could help ensure day-to-day functioning and maintenance of its critical infrastructure during a pandemic.

[A copy of GAO's report, and the Davis-Waxman request letter, can be found on the Committee's website, \[reform.house.gov\]\(http://reform.house.gov\).](#)

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