

**PANDEMIC  
PLANNING**  
GET INFORMED. GET PREPARED.

*Planning Resolution between  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
Mike Leavitt and Governor Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania*

This Memorandum of Understanding, made this 17th day of March 2006, by and between the United States Department of Health and Human Services (hereinafter "HHS"), and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (hereinafter "Pennsylvania").

BACKGROUND

**WHEREAS**, Influenza pandemics have occurred three times in the last century, and history and science suggest that the country and the world could face one or more pandemics in this century;

**WHEREAS**, a pandemic can cause severe illness, death and disruption throughout the country and the world, and outbreaks can occur in many different locations all at the same time;

**WHEREAS**, preparing for an influenza pandemic requires coordinated action at all levels of government – federal, state, local, tribal – and all sectors of society, including businesses, schools, faith-based and community organizations, families and individuals;

**WHEREAS**, the federal government is committed to taking a leadership role in creating a prepared Nation by monitoring international and domestic outbreaks, providing funding and technical assistance to foster local and state preparedness, stockpiling and distributing countermeasures, developing new treatments, and coordinating the national response;

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of HHS is committed to holding pandemic planning summits in all 50 states in order to assist states in improving their levels of preparedness;

**WHEREAS**, President George W. Bush asked Congress for emergency spending authority to prepare the United States against the possibility of a pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Congress provided over \$3 billion for that purpose in the Defense Appropriations Act for 2006, including funding for state and local planning purposes;

**WHEREAS**, states and local communities are responsible under their own authorities for responding to an outbreak within their jurisdictions and having comprehensive pandemic preparedness plans and measures in place to protect their citizens;

**WHEREAS**, consistent with its authorities and availability of funding, HHS may provide additional resources for State and local influenza planning and preparedness activities, and require specific preparedness goals from States and localities as a condition of financial assistance;

**WHEREAS**, preparedness plans must be continuously exercised and updated to make sure they work and to achieve a stronger level of preparedness;

**WHEREAS**, pandemic preparedness will help communities deal with any type of medical emergency and will have lasting benefits for the health of our Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, HHS and Pennsylvania each share common goals, and each have shared and independent responsibilities for influenza planning and preparedness.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the parties to this Memorandum set forth the following as the terms and conditions of their understanding:

1. HHS will be responsible for:

a. Continuing to provide substantial guidance and technical assistance to Pennsylvania as it prepares to respond to a possible influenza pandemic. Among other things, HHS will coordinate pandemic response activities with state, local and tribal public health agencies; support state pandemic planning efforts; communicate and disseminate timely influenza pandemic information and technical guidance to state and local public health departments; and provide direct support and technical guidance for epidemiological investigations and diagnostic services.

b. Providing Pennsylvania an initial amount of financial assistance for the purpose of pandemic planning-- such assistance to be consistent with its statutory authorities, direction from Congress, Departmental regulations and policy, and subject to available funding. Terms and conditions of such assistance will state that additional amounts will depend upon achievement of specific preparedness goals as agreed to by HHS and Pennsylvania, including a self-assessment of readiness on the part of Pennsylvania.

c. Within six months of submission, reviewing Pennsylvania's plan for the use, storage and distribution of antivirals and then notifying Pennsylvania of its portion of the federal stockpile of pandemic influenza antiviral drugs.

2. Pennsylvania, subject to the availability of federal funding, will be responsible for:

a. Assuring that the operational plan for pandemic influenza response is an integral element of the overall state and local emergency response plan that will coordinate effectively with Emergency Support Function 8, Health and Medical Services,

of the National Response Plan and the National Incident Management System.

b. Establishing a Pandemic Preparedness Coordinating Committee that represents all relevant stakeholders in Pennsylvania (including governmental, public health, healthcare, emergency response, agriculture, education, business, communication, community-based and faith-based sectors, as well as private citizens) and is accountable for articulating strategic priorities and overseeing the development and execution of Pennsylvania's operational pandemic plan.

c. Within six months of the date of the signature of this resolution, notifying HHS of Pennsylvania's intention to purchase antiviral drugs in coordination with HHS, subject to the availability of funding.

d. Exercising the state's preparedness plan within twelve months of the date of the state planning summit between the HHS Secretary and the Governor of Pennsylvania, and participating in a nationwide pandemic planning exercise within twelve months of that date.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties to this Memorandum of Understanding have executed it through their respective duly authorized officers, as of the date first written above.

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

**U.S. Department of Health and  
Human Services**



**Edward G. Rendell, Governor**



**Mike Leavitt, Secretary**