

Planning Resolution between Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

PANDEMIC PLANNING GET INFORMED: 32 - REPARED

Whereas:

- 1. 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;
- 2. 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;
- 3. 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;
- 4. The federal government has 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;
- 5. The Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has committed to holding pandemic planning summits in all 50 states, assisting states to improve their level of preparedness;
- 6. President George W. Bush asked Congress for emergency spending authority to prepare the United States against the possibility of a pandemic. The Congress has provided over \$3 billion for that purpose in the Defense Appropriations Act for 2006, including funding for state and local planning purposes;
- 7. 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;
- 8. 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 and achievement of these goals from States and localities as a condition of financial assistance;
- 9. Preparedness plans must be continuously exercised and updated to make sure they work and to achieve a stronger level of preparedness; and
- 10. Pandemic preparedness will help communities deal with any type of medical emergency and will have lasting benefits for the health of our Nation;

11. HHS and Los Angeles County share common goals, and have shared and independent responsibilities for influenza planning and preparedness.

Be it resolved:

1. HHS will be responsible for:

- a) Continuing to provide substantial guidance and technical assistance to Los Angeles County as it prepares to respond to a possible influenza pandemic. Among other things, HHS, and its operating divisions, coordinates pandemic response activities with state, local and tribal public health and health care agencies; supports state pandemic planning efforts; communicates and disseminates timely influenza pandemic information and technical guidance to state and local public health departments and health care agencies; and provides direct support and technical guidance for epidemiological investigations and diagnostic services through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- b) Consistent with its statutory authorities, direction from Congress, and Departmental regulations and policy, and subject to available funding, providing States financial assistance for the purposes of pandemic planning. A portion of those funds will be made available to the state immediately upon receipt of a letter of intent, receipt by Los Angeles County of additional amounts will depend upon achievement of preparedness goals as agreed to by HHS and Los Angeles County.
- c) Reviewing Los Angeles County's plans for use, storage and distribution of antivirals and notifying Los Angeles County of its portion of the federal stockpile of pandemic influenza antiviral drugs.

2. Los Angeles County will be responsible for:

- a) Augmenting state and local planning with a Pandemic Preparedness Summit.
- b) Updating Los Angeles County's pandemic influenza plans based on guidance given in the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan and the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza both released in November 2005 and any guidance the Secretary may provide concerning the use of countermeasures necessary to address a pandemic.
- c) Assuring that the plan for pandemic influenza response is an integral element of the overall 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.
- d) Establishing a Pandemic Preparedness Coordinating Committee or other work group that represents relevant stakeholders in the jurisdiction and that will assist the County in articulating strategic priorities and overseeing the development and execution of the jurisdiction's pandemic plan.
- e) No later than July 1, 2006 notifying HHS of the amount, if any, of additional pandemic influenza antiviral drugs that Los Angeles County plans to purchase during the next fiscal year in coordination with HHS, subject to the availability of funding and consistent with the federal policy for antiviral stockpiles.

- f) Exercising portions of the state's preparedness plan within 12 months of the date of the state planning summit between the HHS Secretary and the Mayor of Los Angeles County, and participating in a nationwide pandemic planning exercise. These planning and response exercises should enable public health and law enforcement officials to establish procedures and locations for quarantine, surge capacity, diagnostics, and communication.
- g) Providing CDC a self-assessment of readiness on the part of Los Angeles County as one of the deliverables to receive funds referenced in 1.b)
- h) Achieving specific preparedness goals, targets, and timelines as agreed to by HHS, CDC and Los Angeles County in order to receive additional funds referenced in 1.b).

Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County

Secretary Michael O. Leavitt