

XXIII. Sample E-mail–How to Get Involved

Hello,

As you may already know, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other leading health experts agree that the threat of a flu pandemic is real. They say that it is not a question of IF a flu pandemic will occur, but WHEN it will occur.

The United States was overwhelmed by the 1918–1919 flu pandemic, which caused the deaths of at least 675,000 Americans. If a flu pandemic of similar severity occurred today, 90 million Americans could become ill, and nearly 2 million could die.

Preparing now will make it easier for you and your family during a flu pandemic. However, the Government alone can't prepare the Nation for a flu pandemic. This challenge requires leadership from those individuals who are most trusted and respected in their communities—individuals like you. HHS has developed a kit to help leaders easily encourage preparation among our group.

With the help of the materials provided by HHS, our community is motivating its members to get prepared by sharing information and ideas. I encourage all of you do the same.

Visit www.takethelead.pandemicflu.gov to learn how you can prepare and how you can help those around you do the same. Start now by sharing information with your family, friends and colleagues. While no one can prevent a flu pandemic from happening, we can work together to prepare the nation to help minimize its impact.

Thank you,

[insert name]

